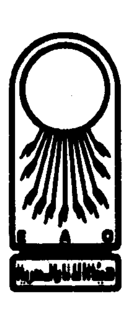
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Tell Basta I

Mohamed I. Bakr

Tombs and Burial Customs at Bubastis

The Area of the so-called Western Cemetery

In cooperation with Walter F. Reineke, Stefan Grunert, Adelheid Burkhardt,
Abdel Aziz Amin, Mohamed Adel Mohamed Abdel Moneim and Mahmoud Omar Selim.

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Foreword

Bubastis, the very ancient city, is already well known. It was mentioned in the Old Testament as Pi-beseth in the Hebrew version (Hezekiel 30,17). In his second book which was devoted to Egypt, Herodot gives a special attention to describe the famous annual festival of Bubastis dedicated to the cat goddess named Bastet (Herodot II, 59-60). The cult of the wild cat was wide spread all over the Egyptian nomes, so that its name was given to the city as well as to the province later. The town was called Per-Bastet (*Pr-B3s.t.t*), and was transcribed by the Greek as Bubastis.[1]

The ancient Egyptian records let understand that first Bubastis was a part of the Heliopolitan or the 13th nome of Lower Egypt. After the division of the Heliopolitan nome, Bubastis became the capital of its northern part known as the 18th nome of Lower Egypt. It seems to reach its highest fame during the 22nd and 23rd Dynasties when Bubastis appeared to be the capital of the Egyptian kingdom. The city was one of the centers of building activities in the Delta during the Pharaonic periods till the Roman time.

Bubastis was described by the Arab geographers as a town *Korah* in Sharqiyyah in Lower Egypt in the book "Mo^{c}gam al Buldan" of Ya^{c}qoob al-Hamawy" (Vol. I, p. 422, Beirut 1955). But about 200 years ago, a tribe or a family whose chief was named Zagzug gave his name to the new city. Bubastis remained to be the name of the ancient part of it. This lies to the south-east of the modern Zagazig, not far from the mouth of the Wadi Tumilat. Therefore, it is situated on the ancient main road leading to the north-east, to Asia. This traderoute was on the Pelusian Nile branch known as the so-called Bubastic River which flowed in the Mediterranian at Pelusium.

Since the middle of the year 1978, the University of Zagazig is undertaking an ambitious project aiming at the safeguarding, conservation, and to clarify by systematic excavations what is left of the ancient town Bubastis. This project is undertaken in order to complete our knowledge of the history of the main town still partly kept from destruction in the heavily populated eastern part of the Delta. It is a pity that the urban expansion of Zagazig caused a lot of damage and the disappearance of many important parts of the archaeological site (plan 1, 2). In the fourties of our century the area was used as a playground. East of the Kafr el Nakhal district there were situated a Muslim and a Coptic cemetery, the old butcher's area, and also a recruiting centre of the army and the new district Council of Tell Basta.[1] West of the Mo^{c}ahda road leading to Isma^{c}ylia and the Suez Canal zone a camp of the

military police, a centre of the drainage project, a timber's dump and the centre of the traffic police are situated. The highest elevation of Tell Basta is used as a shooting area.

In former times, there were many of such elevations containing mud brick walls and broken pottery in large quantities as well as remains of a granit temple. We saw some statues there, one of them was thought to have the power to cure the women of barrenness. If they go there in the dawn and take a bath using water carried in a special pot which was taken from the area in front of the statue such women will be pregnant and will have maternity. This purification was followed by the destruction of the pottery in this place. In the past, the people used to go there after the rain to collect beads and scarabs, too.

In the beginning of the last century, the first informations about Tell Basta came to Europe by the French sculptor and excavator Jean Jacques Rifaud.[3] He published a stela found at Bubastis which represents a priest in front of the good Amun-Re^{c}.[4]

In 1887, Mariette, by that time the director of the Egyptian Antiquities Service, set Edouard Naville on a systematic excavation of the site. He continued from 1887 - 1889 to excavate many monuments. The most important discoveries were the main cats' cemetery and the great temple of Bastet partly built of granite. It was formed of an enclosure wall made of basalt, an entrance hall built by Osorkon I, the hypostyle hall of Osorkon II, the temple of Nektanebos II, and the sacred lake. Blocks and statues of the Pharaos Cheops, Chephren, Sesostris I and III, Sobekhotep I and III and Khajan were discovered in the ruins of the temple later. This makes the exact dating of the temple uncertain. They may have been transported from other buildings into this area to be used as building material in the temple enclosure.[5]

In 1906, works began to construct the railway Cairo - Zagazig via Bilbeis. The ancient site Tell Basta was used as a source of material to erect the dam of this railroad. Digging up the soil of the Tell, the workmen came across a hoard of gold and silver 16 m to the west of the main temple of Bastet; only some of these objects were collected by the inspectors of the Antiquties Department and sent to be kept in the Egyptian Museum in Cairo. Among them is a very beautiful silver jar with a goat shaped golden handle, inscribed with the name of Temtoneb, a royal butler from the late 19th Dynasty (Cairo Museum 53262).

Two granite sarcophagi, one belongs to Hori the "King's son in Kush" under Ramses III and Ramses IV, were discovered later in 1925 by the railway workmen in a distance of 220 m south-east of the southern corner of the Coptic cemetery.[6]

A limestone stela was unearthed in 1939 during the building of the Mo^{c}ahda road (by

that time a military road leading to Isma^{c}ylia) which cuts the archaeological site of Bubastis. It bears an inscription representing the goddess Bastet giving Pharao Pepi the life sign *^{c}nḫ*. This led to the big excavations carried out by Labib Habachi, then the chief inspector of the Antiquities Department at Tell Basta. Between 1939 and 1944 and again in 1948, he discovered a temple with fine limestone pillars built under Pepi I, and the family tomb of the viceroy Hori I. Many examinations had been done to study and publish the inscriptions on the statues and blocks from the great temple of Bastet and the surroundings unnoticed by E. Naville. Labib Habachi published the results of his studies and excavations in the publication of the Antiquities Department in Cairo.[7]

From 1961 to the end of 1966, Shafiq Farid carried out excavations for the Antiquities Department on the site. He unearthed a palace of the Middle Kingdom with its courtyards, column bases and some important statues from the 12th Dynasty, and a Middle Kingdom necropolis consisting of mud brick mastabas, some of them are with limestone cased burial chambers and rich offerings. Most of the objects including shabtis, statues, mirrors, amulets, pottery, etc. are exhibited now in the Orabi-Museum in Herria/Zagazig. He published a preleminary report.[8] The documentation material (diaries etc.) was handed over to Dr. Ch. van Siclen according to an agreement made in the presence of the late Dr. Labib Habachi. In order to enable a good sequence of the excavations, we were happy to invite Shafiq Farid to work as a member of our team for some seasons. He worked eagerly and with energy until he died suddenly between his friends on the site for which he devoted his life. He discovered a part of the cats' cemetery, hundreds of mud brick tombs, pottery coffins, children's pot burials, and more than thousand objects.

In 1967, Mohamed Mohsen excavated a part of the site to give place to a drainage project of the modern city of Zagazig. He unearthed a number of tombs from different periods.

From 1967 until 1971, Ahmed el Sawi took over and continued the excavation at Tell Basta, especially the area to the west of the Mo^{c}ahda road where he discovered further parts of the Middle Kingdom Palace, a temple of Teti, a part of a cemetery of cats, a big house, hundreds of tombs and coffins of different periods, some of them he claimed to date from the Thinite period.[9]

Later on, in 1974, Mounir Basta made some diggings in the site; the results of this works are still unpublished.

The excavation of the University of Zagazig under the direction of Mohamed I. Bakr began in the middle of February 1978 and is continued until now. The aim of the team-work

of the University's staff is to discover the evidence leading to clarify and fill the gaps in our knowledge about the history of Bubastis as an important city in the eastern Delta which still exists inspite of every possible destruction by the recent urban expansion.

Members of the excavation staff:

Prof. Dr. Mohamed Ibrahim Bakr	Director of the excavation, Dean of the Faculty of Arts, and since 1988 Dean of the Institute for Ancient Near Eastern Studies, University of Zagazig
Abdel Aziz Amin	Assistant
Mohamed Adel Mohamed Abdel Moneim	Assistant
Mahmoud Omar Selim	Assistant
Louis Bolos	Inspector of the E.A.O.
Said el Sawy	Inspector of the E.A.O.
Magdy Salib	Inspector of the E.A.O.
Mahmoud Yassin	Inspector of the E.A.O.
Hassan Ahmed	Architect
Abdel Moneim Saleh	Architect
Mohamed Sabet	Conservator and restorator
Jihan Nagib	Draftsman
Mahmoud Shafiq	Draftsman
Abdel Fadil Mesalhy	Photographer
Youssef Shadouf	Photographer
Eissa Hamed Eissa	Administration responsible
Mona Kira	Administration responsible
Bayumi Sayyed Bayumi	Fieldsupervisor
Nabil Ibrahim Masaud	Fieldsupervisor
Mohamed Said	Fieldsupervisor
Abdel Maabud Wehebi	Fieldsupervisor

In order to fullfil our promise and to publish the results of our excavation, and because of the massive material gathered through the intensive work of the University's team, I made an invitation to my colleague Prof. Dr. sc. Walter F. Reineke of the Academy of

Sciences at Berlin to take part in the documentation and publication work. Since 1981 he studied the excavated material and its documentation for one or two months yearly, and was accompanied by Dr. Adelheid Burkhardt (since 1985), Prof. Dr. sc. Erika Endesfelder (1983-1984), and Dr. Stefan Grunert (since 1982).

Zagazig/ Berlin, autumn 1989 Mohamed I. Bakr

Notes

1 Diodorus of Sicily, with an English translation by Old Father, vol. I, Book 1-2, London 1946.

2 Under one of these houses we excavated a well preserved bronze statue of the cat goddess now exhibited in the museum of the University of Zagazig. Cf. M. I. Bakr, Colloques internationaux du C.N.R.S., no. 595. L'Égyptologie en 1979, Actes prioritaires de recherches, Tome I, Paris 1982, pp. 153-167.

3 J. J. Rifaud, Tableau de l'Égypte, de la Nubie et des lieux circonvoisins: ou itinéraire à l'usage des Voyageurs, Paris 1830, p. 163 ff.

4 id., Voyages en Égypte, en Nubie et lieux circonvoisins, depuis 1805 jusqu'en 1827, Paris 1830, pl. no. 95.

5 Naville published the results of his excavation in the 8th and 10th memoirs of "Egypt Exploration Fund" under the titles "Bubastis" (1891) and "The Festival Hall of Osorkon II in the Great Temple of Bubastis" (1892), respectively.

6 Cf. Labib Habachi, Tell Basta, Cairo 1957 (= Suppl. ASAE 22), p. 7.

7 Cf. note above.

8 Shafiq Farid, in: ASAE 58 (1964), p. 85 ff.

9 Ahmed el Sawi, Excavations at Tell Basta, Report of Seasons 1967-1971 and Catalogue of finds, Prague 1979.



1. Introduction

In order to draw exact plans of the entire Tell - those are still unfinished and samples drawn before 1982 are now useless because of the changed borders of Tell Basta - as well as for the maping of special areas, a net was constructed upon the archaeological site in 1981/1982. The net has connection with iron posts fixed in concrete by the Egyptian Antiquities Organisation and the Sharqiyyah governorate. The 100 x 100 m squares are numbered by Latin letters and Roman numbers; the numbering by Latin letters goes from south to north, that of Roman numbers from west to east. So each square is determined by a letter and a number, e.g. E VII. Within the 100 x 100 m squares 10 x 10 m ones are marked, numbered according to chessboard scheme, numbers from south to north, letters from west to east. While preparing the material for publication all previous numberings of excavation plots were transformed into the above described system.

For the nivellements a relative zero point was erected nearly in the floor level of the Middle Kingdom Palace. Two other points for nivellements are used: the highest point in the south-eastern corner of an enlarged limestone burial chamber of a Middle Kingdom mastaba (+ 1.00 m) and the roof of the so-called Family tomb of the Old Kingdom (+ 0,335 m).

The field under excavation can be divided into five main sections:

1 - the so-called Western Cemetery,

2 - the area of the palace of the Middle Kingdom (fig. 1),

3 - the residential area of villa-like houses of the late New Kingdom (fig. 2),

4 - the so-called Eastern Cemetery (fig. 3),

5 - the craftsmen's settlement of the late New Kingdom (fig. 4).

1.1. The So-Called Western Cemetery

To publish the results of our excavation in this area is the aim of the present volume. The area of the Western Cemetery represented a high mound covered with debris and potsherds typical of the Graeco-Roman time and those of the Late Egyptian Period. This area is

situated north-west of the tomb of the viceroy Hori, found in 1939 by Labib Habachi, and north-east of the cemetery, found by Schafiq Farid including the tomb of Iuty, and south-west of the palace of the Middle Kingdom. A detailed description of the several layers and of all tombs, burials, and finds is given in the following chapters.

1.2. The Area of the Palace of the Middle Kingdom

The digging of this area revealed three layers. The uppermost one with a thickness of about 1.5 to 2.0 m contained a number of vaulted tombs. Judging from the architecture, pottery and the names recorded by inscribed shabtis, this layer can be dated to the Ramesside Period. After removing the debris, an enclosure (thickness: 2.25 m)was unearthed under this layer. It extended to the west under the modern Mo^{c}ahda road and to the east to join the enclosure walls of the palace of the Middle Kingdom in a right angle. Inside the area surrounded by the new excavated enclosure, a number of store rooms were discovered, filled with broken pottery of different types. Near the virgin soil beneath the foundation layer of the enclosure walls and under the floor level of the store rooms, too, a number of primitive burials were found. The bodies were laid on their left side in a contracted position. The skeletons were fairly preserved. One burial was provided with offering pots. It seems very likely that these were the burials of the first settlers of Bubastis.

On the badly disturbed surface layer of this area, a number of animal skulls appeared, probably horses or donkeys. The skulls were carefully buried and provided with offering pottery.

The excavations in the palace area led to the discovery of the south-west corner of the enclosure wall of the Middle Kingdom, too, and to several extensions of rooms of the same palace. Lower strata of building activities were also discovered beneath the level of the palace of the Middle Kingdom; they must be attributed to an earlier date.

1.3. The Residential Area of Villa-like Houses of the Late New Kingdom

The so-called Western Cemetery was gradually filled in during the process of construction. It was then abandoned when the majority of the spaces between the tombs were filled in with the material dug out for the later tombs and after the cult offering places of the earlier

tombs were no longer accessible. During the New Kingdom, the area of the so-called Western Cemetery was methodically covered first by rubbish, later by rubble. This new level served as a suitable surface for a residential area of villa-like houses with gardens and granaries. In the 5th season in 1981/1982 such a villa-like building was discovered. It is situated to the south-west of the palace of the Middle Kingdom and to the north of the so-called Western Cemetery. It has a rectangular plan and is occupying more than 250 sq.m. with a small entrance from the south and a main entrance to the north equiped with a limestone threshold. That leades southwards to a hall with four limestone column bases. This hall has three inner entrances equiped with limestone thresholds, too, each of them leades to smaller rooms to the south, east and west. In the south-east corner of the building the kitchen is situated connected by a small door with a narrow room containing some granaries. One of them had a direct connection to the kitchen by a small hole through the wall. The exploration of the whole area is until now not brought to an end.

1.4. The So-Called Eastern Cemetery

In the east of the area of the palaces, a very large mud brick mastaba of the 6th Dynasty was discovered during the 6th season in 1983/1984. It was covered by tombs of the First Intermediate Period and disturbed by burials of later times. Inside the mastaba which was extended by members of the owner's family later, we found several limestone chambers fine decorated by paintings and painted inscriptions as well as a lot of vaulted mud brick chambers. The exploration of this tomb is not yet finished.

1.5. The Craftsmen's Settlement of the Late New Kingdom

In the east of the so-called Western Cemetery, an enlarged settlement area of craftsmen was discovered by cleaning the surface of the licence's area during the 1st season. The remnants of small buildings, workshops, stalls and granaries are dated by several finds to the late New Kingdom. The exploration of this area is until now not brought to an end.

2. List of Skeletons' Positions

In order to classify and standardize the burials, all the skeletons' positions recorded in the cemeteries of Tell Basta until now are described in a list. They are ordered by a Roman number and a letter; these abbreviations are used in the following chapters. For each position, a short description as well as a drawing is given.

I: The deceased was buried in an extended position



a

supine position, the head to N., the face to the sky, the arms straight on the sides;



b

supine position, the head to N., the face to E., the arms straight on the sides;



c

supine position, the head to N., the face to the sky, the right arm extended and the left arm flexed with the hand on the pelvis;



d

supine position, the head to N., the face to the sky, the hands on the pelvis;



e

supine position, the head to N., the face to E., the hands on the pelvis;



f

supine position, the head to N., the face to the W., the hands on the pelvis;



g

supine position, the head to N., the face to the sky (?), the arms crossed on the chest;



h

supine position, the head to N., the face to the W., the arms on the chest;



i

supine position, leaning on the left side, the head to N., the face to E., the left arm straight on the side and the right arm flexed with the hand on the pelvis;



j

supine position, leaning on the left side, the head to N., the face to E., the left arm straight on the side and the right arm flexed;



k

supine position, leaning on the right side, the head to N., the face to W., the arms flexed;



l

supine position, leaning on the right side, the head to N., the face to W., the arms straight on the sides;



m

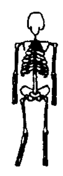
supine position, the head to N., the face to W., the arms straight on the sides;



n

supine position, the head to S., the face to the sky, the hands beside the head.

II: The deceased was buried with flexed legs



a

supine position, the head to N., the face to the sky, the arms straight on the sides, the left leg extended and the right one flexed;



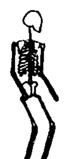
b

supine position, the head to N., the face to the sky, the left arm straight on the side and the right hand on the pelvis;



c

supine position, leaning on the left side, the head to N., the face to E., the hands on the pelvis;



d

supine position, leaning on the left side, the head to N., the face to E., the arms flexed and the right hand on the pelvis;



e



supine position, leaning on the left side, the head to N., the face to E., the left arm straight on the side and the right arm flexed (90°), the left leg flexed slightly and the right one flexed to 90°;



f



supine position, the head to N., the face to E., the left arm straight on the side and the right one flexed (90°), the left leg flexed to 90° and the right one to 45°;



g



supine position, leaning on the left side, the head to N., the face to E., the left arm straight on the side and the right one flexed to 45° with the hand on the left shoulder, the legs flexed to 90°;



h

supine position, leaning on the left side, the head to N., the face to E., the arms flexed to 45°;

i



supine position, leaning on the left side, the head to N., the face to E., the arms flexed to 30° and the hands in front of the face, the left leg more flexed than the right one;

j





supine position, the head to N., the face to E., the left arm flexed beside the body (45°) and the right one flexed with the hand on the pelvis, the left leg more flexed than the right one;



k

on the left side, the head to N., the face to E., the arms flexed with the hands on the pelvis, the legs flexed to 90°;



l

supine position, the head to N., the face to ?, the arms flexed with the hands on the pelvis;



m

on the right side, the head to N., the face to ?, the arms flexed to the sides.

III: The deceased was buried in a supine position with the head to N., the shanks are crossed



a

the face to the sky, the hands on the pelvis, the legs extended;



b

the face to E., the hands on the pelvis, the legs flexed;



c

the face to E., the left arm straight and the right hand on the pelvis;



d

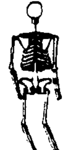
the face to E., the left arm flexed (45°) in front of the body and the right one flexed with the hand on the pelvis, the legs flexed;



e

the face to E., the arms flexed to the sides, the legs flexed.

IV: The deceased was buried on the belly, the head to N. with the face to the ground



a

the arms slightly flexed to the sides, the legs flexed to the left side;



b

the arms flexed to the sides with the left hand beside the head and the right one beside the chest, the legs slightly flexed to the sides;



c

the arms extended with the hands under the pelvis, the legs extended.

V: The deceased was buried in a contracted position



a

on the left side, the head to N., the face to E., the left arm straight on

the side and the right one flexed to 45°, the legs more or less parallel;

b



on the left side, the head to N., the face to E., the arms flexed with the hands on the pelvis, the legs extremely contracted;

c



on the left side, the head to N., the face to E., the left arm straight on the side and the right one flexed to 90°, the legs flexed in different angles to the pelvis;

d



on the left side, the head to N., the face to E., the arms flexed with the hands in front of the face, the legs flexed in different angles to the pelvis;

e



on the right side, the head to S., the face to E. (?), the shanks flexed in different angles;

f



on the right side, the head to E., the face to N., the legs flexed parallel;

g

on the left side, the head to S., the face to W., the legs flexed parallel.

3. The Upper Layers

According to the results of the excavation different strata of cemeteries are to be described:

3.1. The first, uppermost layer, i.e. the surface layer of the hillock up to a depth of about 1.0 m (+ 1.70 m to + 2.95 m above relative 0) represents a cemetery of poor people, the lower class of the Egyptian society dating to the late New Kingdom up to the Late Egyptian Period.

3.2. The second layer is represented by a large tomb of a family of the New Kingdom (+ 1.00 m to + 2.00 m above relative 0).

3.3. The third layer consists of poor burials, mostly burial pits without any superstructure, belonging to the time of the Middle Kingdom up to the Second Intermediate Period (about - 0.40 m to + 1.10 m below resp. above relative 0).

3.4. The fourth layer is represented by tombs which can be dated to the First Intermediate Period up to the beginning of the Middle Kingdom. This layer covers the stratum about + 0.60 m above to - 1.0 m below relative 0.

The fifth layer is marked by a large cemetery dated to the end of the Old Kingdom. It is formed by regularly arranged rows of mud brick tombs mainly with arched passages for the burial places. The foundations of the tombs cover the level between - 2.45 m and + 1.70 m below resp. above relative 0. The most ancient and largest mastaba in this area (the so-called Family Tomb) represents the sixth layer. It should be dated to the fourth Dynasty and covers the level between - 3.00 and + 0.35 m below resp. above 0. While studying the documented material of this big tomb different possibilities to interpret the sequences of building states arose, problems which can only be solved by small scale excavations. Therefore we decided to publish here the finds only, and the other archaeological and architectural material will be given within the next volume of the Tell Basta publication.

To describe the different burials the following scheme is used for the first line:

- on the left the number of tombs or burials during the excavation;
- in the middle the marking of the square according to the excavation plan;

3.1. The First Layer (cf. plan 3)

As for the anthropoid coffins and the other burials of this layer (except no. 14) it should be remarked that the skeleton's positions are given according to the above mentioned scheme despite the fact that these coffins or burials have east-west direction, e.g. in case of an anthropoid coffin, position Ib means: supine position, the head to E., the face to S., the arms straight on the sides.

13/78 **E VII g 6** **12/12/78; fig. 5**

Anthropoid pottery coffin, surrounded by one layer of mud bricks, no superstructure. The pottery coffin was found completely broken. It contained only few remains of human bones. South-east resp., south-west of the coffin two big jars were found, completely broken, too. Each jar contained remains of a child's skeleton.

Finds: Some fayence and carnelian beads and an amulet were found in the region of the chest of the skeleton; Reg. no. 225.

Date: 19th Dyn. to the beginning of the Late Egyptian Period.

14/78 **E VII g 6** **16/12/78**

Poor burial in a shallow pit, no superstructure. The pit contained the skeleton of an adult person wrapped in mats of reed. The skeleton was found destroyed; the skull was missing.

Measurements: L. 110 cm, W. 40 cm.

Position: II m.

Date: 19th Dyn. - Late Egyptian Period.

15/78 **E VII g 6** **16/12/78; fig. 6**

Small rectangular burial pit lined by bricks, no superstructure. The burial pit contained a child's skeleton, badly preserved. Remains of mat lining and covering were attested, now decayed to white dust.

Measurements: L. 162 cm, W. 48 cm (E side), 70 cm (W side), H. 18 cm.

Position: II m.

Finds: Few fayence beads; unregistered.

Date: 19th Dyn. - Late Egyptian Period.

16/78 **E VII g 6** **16/12/78; fig. 7**

Anthropoid coffin, surrounded and covered by a rectangular mud brick construction. The coffin contained a child's skeleton, badly preserved.

Measurements: L. 130 cm, W. 50 cm, H. 30 cm;

L. of pottery coffin 104 cm.

Position: II d.

Finds: Only one fayence bead (unregistered) and some carbonized material.

Date: 19th Dyn. - Late Egyptian Period.

17 A/78 **E VII g 6** **16/12/78**

Poor burial in a shallow pit, no superstructure. The burial was disturbed in later times so that the skeleton lost the lower part of the legs.

Position: I 1 (?).

Date: Late Egyptian Period (?).

17 B/78 **E VII g 6** **16/12/78**

Poor burial in a shallow pit, no superstructure. The burial was disturbed in later times so that the skeleton lost parts of the legs.

Position: I b (?).

Date: Late Egyptian Period (?).

18/78 **E VII g 6** **17/12/78; fig. 8**

Rectangular roofed mud brick construction; the four sides were built by two layers of bricks forming walls of half brick thickness. The roof was constructed by nine bricks on each longside laying one against the other to form of gabled shape. The tomb contained a child's skeleton, badly preserved. Remains of mat lining and covering were attested.

Measurements: L. 140 cm, W. 40 cm.

Position: I c.

Finds: Small pot beside the southern wall; Reg. no. 229. Some beads of fayence, glass, carnelian, and stone were found on the chest of the skeleton; Reg. no. 230.

Date: Late New Kingdom (?).

21/78 **E VII g 6** **21/12/78; fig. 9**

Poor burial in a shallow pit, no superstructure. The skeleton was found in a bad state of preservation. Remains of mats of reed were attested.

Position: II e.

Finds: Upper part of a small female statue; Reg. no. 232.

Date: Late New Kingdom (?).

22/78 **E VII g 6** **19/12/78; fig. 10**

Anthropoid pottery coffin, completely broken, without any mud brick construction. The skull was covered by the lower part of a big jar. Only remains of human bones were found, mixed with rubbish.

Date: Late Egyptian Period (?).

23/78 **E VII g 6** **26/12/78; fig. 11**

Shallow burial pit lined by bricks, no superstructure. The east and west walls were formed by two layers of stretchers, the narrow sides by single bricks. The burial pit contained a child's skeleton. Remains of a mat were found.

Measurements: L. 166 cm, W. 60 cm, H. 22 cm;
L. of the skeleton 117 cm.

Position: I d.

Finds: Only a single fayence bead was discovered (unregistered).

Date: 19th Dyn. - Late Egyptian Period.

24/78 **E VII g 6** **25/12/78; fig. 12**

Poor burial in a shallow pit, covered with a layer of bricks. The pit contained the skeleton of a young person, floored, lined, and covered with mats.

Measurements: L. of the skeleton 145 cm.

Position: IV c.

Finds: A small piece of bronze (unregistered).

Date: Late Egyptian Period (?).

27 A/78 **E VII g/h 6** **26/12/78; fig. 13**

Anthropoid pottery coffin, completely broken, no superstructure. The coffin contained the skeleton of an adult person, badly preserved.

Measurements: L. 175 cm, W. 45 cm;

L. of the skeleton 150 cm.

Position: I a.

Finds: Directly south of the coffin near the skull, a broken pot was found, containing five shabtis; Reg. no. 233. A fayence scarab was discovered in the left hand of the skeleton; Reg. no. 234.

Date: Late New Kingdom - Late Egyptian Period.

27 B/78 **E VII g/h 6** **26/12/78; fig. 14**

Anthropoid pottery coffin, without any brick construction. The coffin contained the skeleton of an adult person; instead of the normal lid the skull was covered by the lower part of a big vessel.

Measurements: L. 145 cm, W. 50 cm;

L. of the skeleton 125 cm.

Position: IV a.

Finds: Two steatite scarabs were found in the left hand of the skeleton; Reg. no. 235 and 236. Remains of carbonized material beside the skeleton were discovered.

Date: Late New Kingdom - Late Egyptian Period.

36/78 **E VII g 6** **31/12/78; fig. 15**

Shallow burial pit, lined by two layers of mud bricks (stretchers). The pit contained the skeleton of an adult person.

Measurements: L. 175 cm, W. 60 cm, H. 30 cm;

L. of the skeleton 145 cm.

Position: IV c.

Finds: Carbonized material (grain or wood ?).

Date: Late Egyptian Period.

Finds discovered in the debris between the tombs of the first layer:

- pot; Reg. no. 231
- pot; Reg. no. 236
- limestone disc (unregistered).

3.2. The Second Layer

N.K. Family Tomb E VII e 6-7/f 6-7 May 1978; fig. 16

Rectangular mud brick tomb. The tomb contained four arched passages, two in the N., and two in the S. The access to these passages was given by two shafts in the middle of the tomb which were to be entered from the roof of the superstructure. Inside the arched passages remains of an unknown number of burials disturbed by robbers were found, badly preserved; only some human bones could be unearthed.

Measurements: L. 1500 cm, W. 800 cm, preserved H. c. 150 cm.

Finds: A lot of light green fayence beads were discovered in the debris inside the passages; Reg. no. 358.

Date: New Kingdom.

3.3. The Third Layer (cf. plan 4)

1/78 E VII f 7 21/11/78; fig. 17

Poor burial in a shallow pit, no superstructure. The pit contained the skeleton of an adult person.

Position: V a.

Date: Middle Kingdom - Second Intermediate Period.

2/78 E VII f 7 25/11/78; fig. 18

Poor burial in a shallow pit, no superstructure. The pit contained the skeleton of an adult person, the left leg is missing.

Position: I b.

Date: Middle Kingdom - Second Intermediate Period.

3/78 **E VII f 7** **30/11/78**

Burial pit with remains of a coffin of wood. The coffin contained only few remains of human bones, mainly the upper part of the right leg up to the femur.

Measurements: L. 180 cm, W. 40 cm.

Position: I a (?).

Finds: Some pieces of carbonized material.

Date: Middle Kingdom - Second Intermediate Period.

5/78 **E VII g 7** **30/11/78; fig. 19**

Poor burial in a shallow pit, no superstructure. The skeleton was wrapped in mats of reed. The skull was covered by a plate, completely broken; the legs are missing.

Position: I b (?).

Date: Middle Kingdom - Second Intermediate Period.

6/78 **E VII f 7** **5/12/78; fig. 20**

Poor burial in a shallow pit. Only the right arm, some rips and parts of the pelvis were discovered.

Position: I b (?).

Date: Middle Kingdom - Second Intermediate Period.

7/78 **E VII f 7** **5/12/78; fig. 21**

Poor burial in a shallow pit, no superstructure. Four skeletons in three layers wrapped in mats of reed were found.

Position: The upper northern skeleton V a,

the upper southern skeleton V f,

the lower two skeletons I f (one above the other).

Finds: Some fayence beads and two amulets in different parts of the burial pit; Reg. no. 222.

Date: Middle Kingdom - Second Intermediate Period.

8/78 **E VII g 7** **6/12/78; fig. 22**

Poor burial in a shallow pit, no superstructure. Only the legs, parts of the pelvis and of the left arm were found.

Position: I a (?).

Date: Middle Kingdom - Second Intermediate Period.

9/78 **E VII f 6** **9/12/78; fig. 23**

Poor burial in a shallow pit, no superstructure. Only the skull, the chest and few other remains of a child's skeleton were found.

Position: I h (?).

Finds: Some remains of carbonized material (wood ?).

Date: Middle Kingdom - Second Intermediate Period.

10/78 **E VII g 7** **10/12/78; fig. 24**

Poor burial in a shallow pit, no superstructure. The pit was hacked into a layer of reddish ashes by which the skeleton of an adult person was covered, too. The lower parts of the legs are missing.

Position: I f.

Finds: Some small green fayence beads and an amulet were discovered on the neck of the skeleton; Reg. no. 224.

Date: Middle Kingdom - Second Intermediate Period.

19/78 **E VII f 7** **17/12/78; fig. 25**

Poor burial in a shallow pit, no superstructure. The pit contained the skeleton of an adult person wrapped in mats of reed.

Position: I k.

Date: Middle Kingdom - Second Intermediate Period.

20/78 **E VII f 7** **17/12/78; fig. 26**

Poor burial in a shallow pit lined by bricks, no superstructure. The pit contained the skeleton of an adult person wrapped in mats of reed; the upper part of the skeleton was disturbed.

Position: I g.

Date: Middle Kingdom - Second Intermediate Period.

50/79 **E VII h 7** **11/01/79; fig. 27**

Poor burial in a shallow pit, no superstructure. The pit contained the skeleton of an adult person. The skull was covered with a big jar (diameter about 30 cm, unregistered); parts of the skeleton are missing.

Position: II f.

Finds: About 30 cm N. of the head two pots were discovered. One of them contained remains of bones and some carbonized material (unregistered). The other one was filled with sand; Reg. no. 260.

Date: Middle Kingdom - Second Intermediate Period.

51/79 **E VII g 7** **11/01/79; fig. 28**

Poor burial in a shallow pit, no superstructure. The pit contained a child's skeleton wrapped in mats of reed.

Position: I l.

Date: Middle Kingdom - Second Intermediate Period.

55/79 **E VII g 7** **14/01/79; fig. 29**

Poor burial in a shallow pit, no superstructure. The pit contained the skeleton of an adult person.

Position: III c.

Finds: The lower part of a broken pot was discovered under the skull; unregistered.

Date: Middle Kingdom - Second Intermediate Period.

59/79 **E VII g 7** **15/01/79; fig. 30**

Poor burial in a shallow pit, no superstructure. The pit contained the skeleton of an adult person wrapped in mats of reed.

Position: Similar I d (the head to south-east).

Date: Middle Kingdom - Second Intermediate Period.

69/79 **E VII g 6** **22/01/79; fig. 31**

Small rectangular mud brick construction. The tomb contained the skeleton of an adult person, partly disturbed.

Measurements: L. 250 cm, W. 150 cm.

Position: I d.

Finds: In the north-east corner of the tomb, an oviform pot with pointed base was found; Reg. no. 271.

Date: Middle Kingdom - Second Intermediate Period.

71/79 **E VII g 7** **23/01/79**

Small rectangular mud brick construction. The tomb contained the skeleton of an adult person perhaps buried in a wooden coffin; remains of carbonized wood were discovered beside the skeleton.

Measurements: L. 240 cm, W. 110;

L. of the coffin 180 cm, W. 65 cm.

Position: I g.

Finds: In the north-west corner of the tomb, two pots were found beside the skull, one of them completely destroyed (unregistered); Reg. no. 272. Near the skeleton a small steatite amulet was discovered; Reg. no. 273.

Date: Middle Kingdom - Second Intermediate Period.

72/79 **E VII g 7** **23/01/79; fig. 32**

Small rectangular mud brick construction. The tomb contained the skeleton of an adult person.

Measurements: L. 240 cm, W. 90 cm.

Position: II d.

Finds: A group of carnelian and fayence beads was found on the chest; Reg. no. 274. A small broken plate was discovered at the left side of the skeleton; Reg. no. 275. In a magazine near the tomb were found a spherical pot (Reg. no. 261), two pots with pointed base (Reg. no. 262, 263) and another vessel (Reg. no. 264).

Date: Middle Kingdom - Second Intermediate Period.

76/79 **E VII g 7** **24/01/79**

Small rectangular burial pit lined by bricks, no superstructure. The burial pit contained the skeleton of an adult person wrapped in mats of reed.

Measurements: L. 170 cm, W. 45 cm;
L. of the skeleton 150 cm.

Position: I i.

Finds: In the north-eastern pit's corner an oviform pot with pointed base was found on the chest; Reg. no. 281.

Date: Middle Kingdom - Second Intermediate Period.

78/79 **E VII g 7** **25/01/79**

Small rectangular burial pit lined by bricks, no superstructure. The burial pit contained the skeleton of an adult person buried in a wooden coffin. Remains of mummification material were attested on the bones; the skull was filled with yellow sand.

Measurements: L. 230 cm, W. 110 cm;
L. of the coffin 140 cm, W. 45 cm;
L. of the skeleton 150 cm.

Position: II i.

Date: Middle Kingdom - Second Intermediate Period.

79/79 **E VII f 6/g 6** **29/01/79**

Mud brick tomb with vaulted roof and two arched passages. Each passage had an arched entrance from N. and one burial place. The eastern passage with its burial place (79 A) formed the main part of this tomb; the other one was attached later at its western side. The burial 79 A was found completely disturbed, only traces of the feet were discovered at the southern end of the passage. The burial place 79 B was found being empty, possibly unused.

Measurements: L. 350 cm, W. 280 cm, preserved H. at the N. side 130 cm, S. side 180 cm, E. side 100 cm, W. side 60 cm.

Finds: A small pot with pointed base was found in 79 A beside the northern wall; Reg. no. 283. A group of fayence beads was discovered on the feet of this burial; Reg. no. 284.

Date: Middle Kingdom - Second Intermediate Period.

80/79 **E VII g 6-7** **29/01/79; fig. 33**

Rectangular mud brick tomb with traces of arched entrances face on N. and S. The tomb contained the skeleton of an adult person. Remains of yellow plaster were observed. This plaster could have covered a wooden coffin originally because it formed a rectangel.

Measurements: L. 420 cm, W. 160 cm, H. 60 cm;

dimension of the layer of plaster 180 x 55 cm.

Position: I j.

Finds: A pot with pointed base was found in the north-east corner of the burial place; Reg. no. 285.

Date: Middle Kingdom - Second Intermediate Period.

83/79 **E VI g 6-7** **30/01/79; fig. 34**

Rectangular mud brick tomb with two arched passages and two arched entrances face on N. The eastern passage contained the skeleton of an adult person (83 A). Around the skeleton traces of plaster were found, possibly originally covering a wooden coffin. The western passage contained few remains of human bones only (83 B) and traces of plaster, too. Under the burial 83 B a layer of clean yellow sand was noticed.

Measurements: L. 280 cm, W. 260 cm.

Position: 83 A - I k (?).

Finds: 83 A - Two pots beside the skull were found; Reg. no. 290, 291;

83 B - Three pots completely broken were found in the north-east corner; unregistered.

Date: Middle Kingdom - Second Intermediate Period.

118/79 **E VII g 6** **17/02/79; fig. 35, 36**

Rectangular mud brick tomb with three arched passages (118 A/B/C) and three arched entrances face on N. The tomb contained 11 skeletons in all. The passages 118 A and B contained three skeletons of adult persons one beside and partly above the other in each case, the passage 118 C contained five skeletons of adult persons one above the other.

Measurements: L. 260 cm, W. 360 cm;

preserved H. 100 cm,W. of the entrance to 118 B - 100 cm;

W. of the entrances to 118 A and 118 C - 60 cm;

L. of the skeletons between 150 cm and 170 cm.

Position: I a in each case.

Finds: 118 A - in the north-eastern corner beside the skulls two pots and a bowl were found; Reg. Nr. 327 - 329;

118 B - beside the skulls four pots were found; Reg. Nr. 330 - 333;

118 C - beside the skulls three pots were found, two of them completely broken and unregistered; the complete one bears Reg. no. 334.

Date: Middle Kingdom - Second Intermediate Period.

3.4. The Fourth Layer (cf. plan 5)

11/78 **E VII f 6** **10/12/78; fig. 37**

Rectangular burial pit lined by bricks, no superstructure. The pit contained the skeleton of an adult person in a coffin of reed.

Measurements: L. 230 cm, W. 120 cm, H. 17 cm;

L. of the skeleton 173 cm.

Position: II e.

Date: First Intermediate Period to the beginning of the Middle Kingdom.

12/78 **E VII g 6** **11/12/78; fig. 38**

Poor burial in a shallow pit, no superstructure. The pit contained the skeleton of an adult person in a coffin of reed.

Measurements: L. 180 cm, W. 60 cm.

Position: II h.

Finds: One fayence bead, unregistered.

Date: First Intermediate Period to the beginning of the Middle Kingdom.

25/78 **E VII f 7** **25/12/78**

Poor burial in a shallow pit, no superstructure. The pit contained a child's skeleton; remains of reed were attested.

Measurements: L. of the skeleton 55 cm.

Position: III e.

Finds: Remains of carbonized material.

Date: First Intermediate Period to the beginning of the Middle Kingdom.

26/78 **E VII g 7** **26/12/78; fig. 39**

Poor burial in a shallow pit, no superstructure. The pit contained the skeleton of an adult person wrapped in mats of reed.

Measurements: L. 120 cm, W. 50 cm.

Position: V c.

Date: First Intermediate Period to the beginning of the Middle Kingdom.

45/79 **E VII f 6/f 7** **8-9/01/79; fig. 40-42**

Mud brick tomb with two arched passages and two burials in each; the two arched entrances face on N. The two mud brick tombs 62/79 and 63/79 were built directly at the S. side of tomb 45/79.

Burial A: The skeleton of an adult a person, disturbed.

Position: V g (?).

Burial B: The skeleton of an adult person in a coffin of reed.

Position: II c.

Burial C: The skeleton of an adult person, extremly disturbed; remains of mats of reed were found.

Burial D: The skeleton of an adult person, extremly disturbed; remains of mats of reed were found.

Measurements: L. 620 cm, W. 600 (E. side) / 670 (W. side) cm, preserved H. 80 cm.

Date: First Intermediate Period to the beginning of the Middle Kingdom.

52/79 **E VII g 6** **13/01/79; fig. 43**

Poor burial in a shallow pit, no superstructure. The pit contained the skeleton of an adult person wrapped in mats of reed; parts of the skeleton are missing (skull, arms).

Position: V e.

Date: First Intermediate Period to the beginning of the Middle Kingdom.

54/79 **E VII g 6** **14/01/79; fig. 44**

Poor burial in a shallow pit, no superstructure. The pit contained the skeleton of an adult person wrapped in mats of reed.

Measurements: L. 185 cm, W. 60 cm.

Position: II e.

Date: First Intermediate Period to the beginning of the Middle Kingdom.

58/79 **E VII g 6** **15/01/79; fig. 45**

Poor burial in a shallow pit, no superstructure. The pit contained the skeleton of an adult person wrapped in mats of reed; the skull is missing.

Measurements: L. 190 cm, W. 55 cm.

Position: II k.

Date: First Intermediate Period to the beginning of the Middle Kingdom.

62/79 **E VII f 6** **17/01/79; fig. 46-48**

Mud brick tomb with one arched passage and two burial places in it; the arched entrance faces south.

Burial A: Three skeletons, perhaps a mother with her children; remains of mats of reed were noticed.

Position: I a (adult person), III e (children).

Burial B: One skeleton of an adult person.

Position: II f.

Measurements: L. 520 cm, W. 290 cm, preserved H. 90 cm;
bricks: 33 x 16 x 6 cm.

Finds: A group of green fayence beads was found on the chest of the adutlt person of burial A; Reg. no. 267. More fayence beads were discovered on the pelvis; Reg. no. 268.

Date: First Intermediate Period to the beginning of Middle Kingdom.

63/79 **E VII f 6** **17/01/79; cf. fig. 42, 46**

Mud brick tomb with one arched passage and two burial places in it; the arched entrance faces south. The tomb was built directly at the W. side of tomb no. 62/79. It contained

only one skeleton of an adult person wrapped in mats of reed, laying in the southern part.

Measurements: L. 470 cm, W. 280 cm, preserved H. 90 cm;

bricks: 33 x 16,5 x 6 cm.

Date: First Intermediate Period to the beginning of the Middle Kingdom.

65/79 E VII g 6 22/01/79; fig. 49

Poor burial in a shallow pit, no superstructure. The pit contained the skeleton of an adult person wrapped in mats of reed.

Measurements: L. 180 cm, W. 65 cm.

Position: II c.

Finds: Remains of carbonized material and burnt bones were noticed.

Date: First Intermediate Period to the beginning of the Middle Kingdom.

66/79 E VII g 7 22/01/79; fig. 50

Poor burial in a shallow pit, no superstructure. The pit contained the skeleton of an adult person wrapped in mats of reed in a wooden coffin.

Measurements:L. 170 cm, W. 65 cm.

Position: II k.

Finds: Remains of carbonized material and burnt bones were noticed.

Date: First Intermediate Period to the beginning of the Middle Kingdom.

67/79 E VII g 6 22/01/79; fig. 51

Poor burial in a shallow pit, no superstructure. The pit contained two skeletons wrapped in mats of reed, perhaps a mother and her child.

Measurements: L. 180 cm, W. 60 cm;

L. of the adult skeleton 160 cm;

L. of the child's skeleton 120 cm.

Position: I j (adult person), I a (child).

Finds: Two broken pots were found east of the child's skeleton beside the skull, unregistered. Remains of carbonized material and burnt bones were noticed.

Date: First Intermediate Period to the beginning of the Middle Kingdom.

68/79 **E VII g 7** **22/01/79; fig. 52**

Poor burial in a shallow pit, no superstructure. The pit contained the skeleton of an adult person wrapped in mats of reed.

Measurements: L. 160 cm, W. 60 cm;

L. of the skeleton 150 cm.

Position: I d.

Finds: Remains of carbonized material near the skeleton were noticed.

Date: First Intermediate Period to the beginning of the Middle Kingdom.

70/79 **E VII f 7** **22/01/79; fig. 53**

Poor burial in a shallow pit, no superstructure. The pit contained the skeleton of an adult person wrapped in mats of reed.

Measurements: L. 160 cm, W. 60 cm.

Position: II f.

Finds: Remains of carbonized material near the skeleton were noticed.

Date: First Intermediate Period to the beginning of Middle Kingdom.

82/79 **E VII g 6** **29/01/79; fig. 54**

Poor burial in a shallow pit, no superstructure. The pit contained the skeleton of an adult person wrapped in mats of reed; perhaps a woman. The skull and the right arm were missing.

Measurements: L. 170 cm, W. 60 cm;

L. of the skeleton 140 cm.

Position: I a (?).

Date: First Intermediate Period to the beginning of the Middle Kingdom.

100/79 **E VII g 7** **7/02/79; fig. 55**

Poor burial in a shallow pit, no superstructure. The pit contained the skeleton of an adult person wrapped in mats of reed.

Position: I a.

Date: First Intermediate Period to the beginning of the Middle Kingdom.

107/79 **E VII g 6** **13/02/79**

Small rectangular mud brick construction. It contained the skeleton of an adult person.

Measurements: L. 230 cm, W. 120 cm;

bricks : 34 x 16 x 7 cm.

Position: III b.

Date: First Intermediate Period to the beginning of the Middle Kingdom.

109/79 **E VII g 6** **13/02/79; fig. 56**

Poor burial below the bottom of a circular granary (diameter 100 cm, preserved H. 40 cm). The burial contained the skeleton of an adult person; the legs were missing. A second skull was discovered on the pelvis.

Position: V e (?).

Date: First Intermediate Period to the beginning of the Middle Kingdom.

113/79 **E VII g 7** **14/02/79; fig. 57**

Poor burial in a shallow pit, no superstructure. The pit contained the skeleton of an adult person wrapped in mats of reed.

Measurements: L. 180 cm, W. 58 cm.

Position: II c.

Date: First Intermediate Period to the beginning of the Middle Kingdom.

137/79 **E VII f 7** **4/04/79**

Rectangular mud brick construction. It contained two skeletons of adult persons one above the other wrapped in mats of reed.

Measurements: L. 300 cm, W. 240 cm, preserved H. 95 cm;

bricks 33 x 14 x 6 cm.

Position: V a.

Date: First Intermediate Period to the beginning of the Middle Kingdom.

4 . The Fifth Layer

4.1. General Description

The distinction of the Old Kingdom necropolis of Bubastis into a western and an eastern cemetery corresponds to the different situation of the excavation areas (cf. plan 2). In the present stage of research on Tell Basta it is not possible to make any statement on whether this is one unified necropolis or two cemeteries separated by an Old Kingdom palace complex. It can be stated without any doubt that in both cases the excavation area corresponds by no means to the size of the original area used for tombs.

The so-called Western Cemetery is situated in the south-western part of the licence area marked as "Second Area" in M. I. Bakr's preliminary report. This licence area stretches over 70 x 70 meters (plan 6). To the south it is bordered by tombs from the New Kingdom which were excavated in the sixties by Schafiq Farid (unpublished) and in the southern direction it is immediately followed by the tombs of the viceroys Hori I and Hori II (cf. plan 1, 2; fig. 58). Tombs from the same period and in a lower layer, those from the Old Kingdom with central burial chambers of limestone constitute the recent western border of the licence area (fig. 59). This excavation was also undertaken by Schafiq Farid and its results are still unpublished, too.

The relations between the Old Kingdom tombs excavated by Schafiq Farid in lower layers west of the licence area of the University of Zagazig and those of the so-called Western Cemetery have not yet been explored; this would require an evaluation of material found by Schafiq Farid in the course of his excavations. The general assumption that these constructions, too, belong to the so-called Western Cemetery is probable, despite the different modes of construction. Like the tomb buildings from the Old Kingdom reaching beyond the western border of the present licence area, the cemetery also extends further in a southerly direction, i.e. here also unexcavated Old Kingdom tombs to be found in the layer next to the Gezira gravel are covered up by tombs from the New Kingdom. Contrary to the western extension of the so-called Western Cemetery - which may be assumed to continue underneath the Mo^{c}ahda Street only about 60 m distant and once stretched to the now built-up part of the Tell situated west of it - its southern extension is demarcated. In the course of

constructing a store for the antiquities from the Sharqiyya gouvernorate (cf. fig. 58, 59) east of the area of the Mihos temple and north of the Great Temple of Bastet no remains of buildings were found, only layers of rubble.

The northern and eastern limitations of the explored area of the so-called Western Cemetery resulted from extensive remnants of buildings from the New Kingdom, still well preserved in the basic layers, i.e. on a higher level than the upper layers of the necropolis. Thus, to the north there is a residential area of villa-like houses with a west-east extension of almost 25 m (fig. 60) which is still under excavation. Similarly, in the area adjacent to the east of a maximum 35 x 70 m, remnants of what had obviously been craftsmen's settlement were discovered (fig. 61).

From this resulted an area of about 35 m to the west-east, and 25 m to the north-south direction where no coherent and clearly stratified remains of different buildings were found. During the first campaign it became clear that the original plan to mark the strata of the area by means of profile bridges could not be carried out. As the upper layers of the numerous Old Kingdom tombs did not allow the preservation of any profile bridges, the southern and the western excavation demarcations were recorded as west-east and north-south profiles.

4.2. The Profiles

The statements that can be made are based on the profile walls that remained as southern and western demarcations. In their upper layers, there are strata and remnants of architecture which must be dated to the time of the New Kingdom. To add to the south and west profile, in spring 1982 a cut running in west-east direction was made to clarify the strata conditions below the tombs. This cut made use of another through the so-called Family Tomb in the south-eastern part of the area of the Old Kingdom tombs made during the campaign from September 1980 to July 1981. To the west of the so-called Family Tomb it was led along the southern end walls of the tombs, thus to be able, at the same time, to register possible foundations. For the clarification of the north-south strata conditions below the tomb foundations, profile areas could be used that had occured during the first two campaigns. It was not possible to prepare an eastern or a northern profile, as in these parts the tombs from the Old Kingdom reach below the constructions from the New Kingdom, vertical profile areas being more or less identical with brickwork from the New Kingdom.

4.2.1. The South Profile

The whole profile has large, band-like strata (cf. drawing 1). Also made of the same material they show a fine stratification in themselves. The main strata are constituted by different proportions of a mixture, the main elements of which are gravel, clay, Nile mud and settlement rubbish, which is mixed with ash sometimes more, sometimes less. These different amounts of ash also provide the different colours of each stratum; thus if gravel prevails, the hue tends to be yellowish, if the ash predominates, it is greyish-black. Slightly brighter in tone and much more dense in their consistency are those strata that contain a larger amount of clay.

According to the run of the strata with regard to horizontal two fundamentally different parts can be discerned. In the upper part which is horizontally met by the foundations of the New Kingdom tombs excavated by Schafiq Farid the internal fine stratification of the whole stratum, the maximum thickness of which amounts to 1.6 m, runs horizontally. The strata below, however, are not horizontal but ascend to the west by an average of 20 cm per meter. It is remarkable that the upper horizontal stratum always meets the ascending lower one horizontally, thus not overtaking the gradient angle of the latter, but bracking off when reaching the respective level. Hence, it can be supposed that this is a deliberate deposit spread for the purpose of levelling the previously uneven area on which the New Kingdom tombs were built afterwards. This interpretation, however, is made questionable by the existence of six layers of intact brickwork of a thickness of two brick lengths, the cut end of which is visible in the eastern part of the profile wall. At the eastern length side of the wall, running south but not traceble in that direction, there is a deposit of ash and potsherds. The lower horizontal demarcation of that deposit is on the same level as that of the first brick layer. Upwards a deposit angle of 30° is clearly visible. These may be remnants of a building which could have stretched eastwards. However, the fact that there are no similar findings or such differences in the deposit material west of the wall that would make it possible to interpret a particular level as former surface, runs counter to this assumption. In this context it is significant that the proportions of the strata material remain equal in the whole rubble package. It indicates also that this material as a whole was mixed before it was deposited horizontally over the Old Kingdom cemetery, and was spread here in a comparatively short time. A natural deposition is improbable not only with regard to the horizontally running internal fine stratification of the material but also because it would have caused greater differences in material. Again, from this circumstance, one could

draw the conclusion that the area was deliberately filled in for the purpose of levelling. Concerning the bricks discoverd, it can be assumed that this was only a compactly deposited broken piece of a wall.

A limited usage of fundamentally different rubble material within the horizontal stratum which consists of a homogeneous mixture of clayey Nile mud, broken potsherds, bones, etc. is to be found in other parts, too. Thus, on a comparatively high horizon separate bands with the conciderable concentration of potsherds and/or bones emerge, limited in a west-east direction. These, too, run horizontally; in one case one can talk of a pile of rubble. It lies on the uneven lower part and is surrounded on either side and on top by the horizontal deposit. In this case we evidently have a deposit that seems to have already existed before the area was levelled. The comparativelly horizontal run of the upper end on this potsherd pile can be explained by the probable procedure of levelling. Fundamentally there would occure an undulating unevenness within the internal structure of the rubble package, even if deliberate deposition was carried out, except if the newly spread material had been distributed each time immediately after the deposition. Such a levelling of the material also would explain the deformation of the top of the potsherd pile running in an eastern direction and covering the deposit material partly.

Except potsherds and broken pieces of bricks in the horizontal rubble package - odd remnants of burnt bricks date the upper stratum quite certainly to the period of the New Kingdom - there were very few finds in this part. Concerning the general concentration of fine, medium and rough pottery no significant differences could be made out. However, in the above-mentioned bands, when a conciderable concentration of potsherds occurs, medium pottery prevails whereas rough pottery is scarcely represented.

As already mentioned, under the horizontal upper stratum, layers of soil are visible, ascending band-like from east to west by an average of 20 cm per meter. Where the brick-work of the so-called Family Tomb of the Old Kingdom cemetery begins, the stratum breaks off vertically. West of the tomb it cannot be made out: Not fare from the so-called Family Tomb a so far unexplored smaller one reaches southwards into the profile wall, thus disturbing the primary stratification of the soil here. This smaller tomb in the foundations meets a horizontal stratum of gravel and Nile mud with a horizontal fine stratification, hardly visible. In this stratum of gravel and Nile mud potsherds occur very occasionally, and there is a total lack of genuine fine pottery. Above the horizontal stratum that can be followed to the western end of the profile wall in the precinct of the unopend tomb there is a considerable deposit of potsherd that, judging from the shape of the profile, served to cover it. Only west

of that place below the horizontally stratified New Kingdom layer, a similar bank ascending westwards like those on the eastern side, is visible. However, the gradient is lower here, amounting to 10 cm per meter. Another tomb in the west interrupts this almost 1 m thick stratum as well as these below it vertically; they are not visible in the west profile.

The virgin-soil pattern consists of Gezira gravel that becomes brighter with growing depth, but this could be reached only in the western part of the south profile, as it was necessary to protect and preserve the buildings in the other parts. The Gezira gravel emerges as a hill-like mound which reaches its maximum height below the above-mentioned most western tomb, i.e. from here it falls down - as far as visible - on either side. The difference between bottom and maximum height amounts to 65 cm; to the west the maximum height is reached almost at the beginning of the west profile. The deepest layers of Gezira gravel are covered by a stratum of pure Nile mud with a maximum thickness of 25 cm in the eastern part. In this layer there are no artificial objects at all, thus it may be assumed that it is a part of the naturally evolved soil. Upwards it runs absolutely flat and horizontal, thus giving it the character of a stratum consisting of alluvial material. On this washed-up stratum there is another consisting predominantly of rough potsherd breakage; it also flatly covers the upper layers of the Gezira gravel. This deposit of potsherds, ending horizontally upwards, is covered by the above-mentioned layer of gravel and Nile mud in which only a very small amount of potsherd breakage could be discovered.

Finally, we would remark that only in the border area between the horizontally stratified New Kingdom stratum and the layers underneath dating to Old Kingdom and earlier is there, a narrow band consisting of very fine, ash-like elements which may have been blown there by the wind.

4.2.2. The West Profile

In its surface structure the west profile is similar to the south profile. Here, too, below the New Kingdom tombs a horizontally stratified layer emerges that levels the unevenness of the terrain underneath (cf. drawing 2). Compared to the relatively simple strata conditions of the south profile there is a striking multitude of bands that stand out against each other and are comparatively narrow in their north-south extension. They give proof of frequent, most probably unplanned changes of the area in northern direction through depositions. As far as material is concerned we can find different mixtures of Gezira gravel, Nile mud and settlement rubbish. Only in the stratum adjacent to the soil evolved a relatively clear stratigraphy can be made out. However, this part in particular is difficult to evaluate, as

there are several tomb buildings of the Old Kingdom which prevent the preservation of the lower layers of the west profile. Here we can only judge from the most southern part of the profile. Although both profile walls meet here, no direct connections occur in the lower strata because the tomb which is situated at this place disturbs them.

The considerably lower situated stratum of pure Nile mud that we found in the south profile is not in the west profile which is caused by the height of the Gezira gravel layer. Equally, the deposit of potsherds discovered there which is covered by a layer of pure gravel and pure Nile mud. This indicates a previous ending of both strata in the precincts of the above-mentioned tomb.

In the west profile the Gezira gravel slightly descending to the north and south is covered by a stratum of maximum 30 cm consisting of relatively dark Nile mud mixed with potsherds. In general, the surface profile given by the soil is repeated. This also applies to the stratum above that stands out against the layer of Nile mud and potsherds underneath through a lighter colour, i.e. more sand mixed with the Nile mud. On this package of strata there lies a narrow band consisting of very fine ash-like elements though it does not contain any potsherd breakage or other components of settlement rubbish. This might have been deposited by the wind which is also indicated by the repetition of the surface profile. Only above this narrow band are stratifications visible that might indicate a more dense occupation of this area or be connected with the surrounding tombs.

The high concentration of potsherds in this layer supports the assumption that the area was densely populated. It is also indicated by a considerable amount of settlement rubbish. This layer is differently structured in itself, and obviously results from repeated depositions of different mixtures of waste material, and proportionally to the surface the profile underneath grew to a thickness of 15 cm on average. Uncertain remains the origin of a layer of Nile mud comparatively lacking in finds that looks quite light in colour because of a relatively high amount of sand. Moreover, this layer is of relatively equal thickness - about 10 cm - and very similar to the surface structure underneath. On this level there is a sequence of numerous contrasting band-like strata, comparatively narrow in a north-south extension. The only peculiarity, here, is a strong concentration of partly very rough potsherd breakage at the north, immediately in front of a tomb situated there, while the amount of medium pottery is very low, and there was no fine pottery to be made out in this area. At a distance of about 60 cm from the southern wall of the tomb there, this deposit descends at a gradient angle of about 30°.

4.2.3. The North Profile of the West-East Cut

To clarify the strata conditions underneath the respective tombs and to avoid a destruction of intact brickwork of these constructions the trench running in general in west-east direction was led alongside the end walls of the following tombs: tomb 3, tomb 4, tomb 11, tomb 18, and tomb 20 (cf. drawing 3). By this method of cutting the trench at the western and eastern long sides of the respective complexes, faults emerge to the north and to the south, respectively. In the precincts of the so-called Family Tomb in the eastern region of the Old Kingdom cemetery, the previous trenches could be used that penetrate the western and eastern surrounding walls. These were deepened and combined through a trench in the inner yard of the tomb which led down to the Gezira gravel layer. Inside the tomb the exploration was complicated, as the virgin soil lies below ground-water level.

The lower strata conditions described for the west profile, naturally continue in the western part of the north profile in the west-east trench. Here lies tomb 3 which, because of the immediate neighbourhood of tomb 4 and a north-south alignment different from the latter, is adjacent to this construction in the southern part, and below which we once more have a high concentration of partly very rough potsherd breakage. Under the basic layer of tomb 3 this deposit is covered by a narrow band of dense clay. Above this stratum there is another deposit of partly very rough potsherd breakage that, here, is mixed with much marly Nile mud mortar. Its extension only insignificantly exceeds the measurements of the tomb, and this only in the western and southern direction. In the east both strata of potsherd breakage as well as the intermediate clay band immediately adjoin the almost vertically cut-off strata underneath tomb 4. The Nile mud layer relatively poor in finds that we had already found in the west profile, and which is rather light in colour because of a large amount of sand, continues both underneath tomb 3 and tomb 4. Only east of tomb 4 does it become much thinner, but can be followed up to a point shortly before tomb 18, now with an increasing width again. Underneath this Nile mud stratum poor in finds we have a stratigraphy corresponding to that of the west profile, and the Gezira gravel there, compared to the south profile, descends more and more. In the deeper parts there are hollowed bulges which were also filled with a layer of Nile mud running upwards horizontally; in this layer, too, there were no artificial objects.

Above the Nile mud stratum poor in finds, as in the case of tomb 3, there is a stratum consisting of partly very rough potsherd breakage which around the basic layers of tomb 4

is also covered by a narrow band of dense clay. Different from the clay band of tomb 3 this one is drawn up at the long walls on either side of tomb 4; in the case of the western long wall this end is partly disturbed by tomb 3.

The strata underneath the Nile mud layer poor in finds continues east of tomb 4 with an insignificant change of level - resulting from an ascending and descending of the soil evolved. In the precincts of the higher level of the Gezira gravel layer the horizontal Nile mud layer disappears and the strata above contain a considerable amount of humous soil, although there are no potsherds or any other similar artificial objects in them. Significant for the interpretation of the profiles, is a pile-shaped stratum between tombs 4 and 11 containing a considerable amount of settlement rubbish, and descending to the east. In the eastern part it covers several deposits similarly mixed with bones, potsherds, and ash, and is itself covered by a stratum consisting almost exclusively of settlement rubbish. This stratum, too, descends to the east, and the gradient of 20 cm per meter underneath is repeated once more. The lowest brick layer of tomb 11 to the west is let into this stratum; to the east there is a layer of dense clay insignificantly mixed with Gezira gravel, although not containing any potsherds that levels the gradient.

70 cm east of tomb 4 is tomb 18, the lowest brick layers of which immediately adjoin the gezira gravel without a mortar bed. According to the findings in the south profile of the west-east cut a pit was dug for the construction of this tomb; the material dug out, consisting mainly of highly humous Gezira gravel with a small amount of settlement rubbish, was spread beside the tomb. This deposit is visible in the south profile underneath tomb 11, and underneath tomb 19 which adjoins tomb 18 to the east. The material dug out underneath tomb 19 - as on the western side - directly adjoins the humous Gezira gravel and is covered by an insignificantly less humous layer of Gezira gravel. It is probably a part of the material dug out, too, which is covered by several differing strata. As they also differ in composition - between the different humous Gezira gravel layers there is a deposit of potsherds mixed with considerable organic material, above that there are strata with and without potsherds -, no system of succession can be made out, and, moreover, as this is only a small part of the profile, it is not possible to give any interpretation. The so-called Family Tomb starts at a distance of 1.3 m from tomb 18, also to the east. As in the case of tomb 18 - there is only one essential difference concerning the much larger measurements - a pit had been dug. The whole area had been dug down into the light Gezira gravel where the tomb was later on constructed. It is uncertain where the material dug out was removed to,

because if it had been deposited in the immediate neighbourhood, it would have caused enormous changes in the terrain, compared with that of tomb 18. Such changes would have given the whole area an undulating character, and this cannot be made out in either profile. One possibility is that the layer of considerably humous Gezira gravel reaching to underneath tomb 4 may be identical with the material dug out. On the other hand, this would mean that the whole terrain around the so-called Family Tomb had been levelled relatively homogeneously. The strata conditions underneath the surrounding wall of the so-called Family Tomb will be explained together with the description of the latter, as they were brought about deliberately in the course of construction work.

4.2.4. Summarized Interpretation of Findings

The whole area of the so-called Western Cemetery was originally a low mound consisting of Gezira gravel; single areas situated somewhat lower seem to have been flooded over by the waters of the Pelusian Nile branch during Nile flood. Pure and considerably organic Nile mud was deposited in such hollows; its surface profile is completely flat and horizontal. Because of the culture strata that in part immediately adjoin the Gezira gravel, a flooding of the whole area cannot be assumed. A flooding of the territory can be excluded even for the Early Dynastic Period because of a lack of deposits. The deep pits for the so-called Family Tomb and for tomb 18 that were dug into the Gezira gravel, also indicate that there was a relatively low ground-water level and, at the same time, a relatively low flood level, when the construction work started. Similar to the foundations of the Ka temple of Pepi I, today these of the so-called Family Tomb are within the ground-water precincts whenever unfavorable conditions prevail.

The enormous amount of material dug out for the so-called Family Tomb was deposited either at a further distance or used to fill in the neighbouring territory. In this cases the terrain must have been levelled after the construction work was finished. The pit for tomb 18 was dug later in the thus elevated terrain; the material dug out was deposited next to the tomb. The same procedure was followed to the other tombs on that level. Unlike the so-called Family Tomb, however, the surroundings of the tomb were not levelled; much more likely we can assume a further mixture-deposition of Nile mud and settlement rubbish. Similar to the situation of tomb 18, there are here uncertain strata conditions. The fact that tombs 3 and 4 are situated on a higher level also indicates a deliberate deposition. With regard to these tombs we can state that an obviously deliberately produced change of the

terrain on a small area is visible underneath the basic layers consisting of unburnt Nile mud bricks. The rubble strata covered by bands of dense clay give the impression that they were used as insulating layers against rising soil humidity which would indicate a rising ground-water level. Taking into consideration the falling tendency of the Nile volumina and the simultaneously falling water level of the Mediterranean Sea within the period from about 3000 to 2000 B. C., this can only be explained by a short time of extremely high Nile levels, as the impression of a deliberate usage of insulating layers is also confirmed by similar findings at other tombs.

While in the case of a smaller tomb constructed relatively late in this area a complete overwhelming of the complex is visible, for the earlier tombs such a protection of the construction cannot be made out. From the finds at the north-south running profile walls, too, the conclusion can be drawn that the cemetery was gradually filled in during the process of construction. The cemetery was abandoned when the majority of the constructions were covered with the material dug out for the higher tombs and a cult of the dead was no longer possible. During the period of the New Kingdom it was methodically covered by rubble. This terrain served, on the one hand, as the front of a residential area with villa-like buildings, on the other hand it was used as land for building New Kingdom tombs.

4.3. The Tombs

Although the constructions are executed in different ways, all tombs show a great similarity which manifests itself in single architectural and constructional elements. Besides the building blue-prints, different measurements of the total of 20 tombs were recorded to register the points in common; at the same time these points could be used for a relative chronology and to set up a type list. Two more tombs that reach further beyond the excavation site to the south and to the east could only partly be dismantled and have not yet been explored. In three cases tombs on a high level had to be totally taken away to allow a closer investigation of those underneath.

The buildings consisting of unburnt Nile mud bricks were uncovered down to the level of the basic layers and then opened from the top and cleared. A shaft reduced in its measurements on all sides and corresponding to the shape of the building was dug down to the level of the burial place or places. In each case the state of preservation within the grave was very bad because of changing dampness in soil over the millenia; thus it was

impossible to judge age and sex from the bones. Even where the tombs had not been plundered the provision of burial objects was always very poor. In some of the tombs inscribed objects were found.

4.3.1. General Description of Architecture

All the tombs are rectangular although there are variations in the proportion of length and width. The longitudinal axis of the buildings is always directed towards the Nile-north. In accordance with the reconstructed run of the Pelusian Nile branch - north of Bubastis it ran east-southeast towards the Mediterranean Sea - the north-south axis of these buildings forms a rectangle to the river, i.e. it deviates slightly from the geographical northern course in an eastern direction.

The majority of the tombs had a rounded top, as though covered by a vaulted roof; even today the vaulted forms are still visible at the remnants of the narrow sides (fig. 62). Beside, some tombs were shaped like a horizontal half-cylinder - thus here also, the impression of a vaulted roof was given (fig. 63). In two cases it seems that the covering surface was flat (fig. 64). Here, as well as in the tombs with vaulted tops, inside the buildings, above the burial place, there was at least one arched passage the longitudinal axis of which was identical with that of the tomb. If two arched passages existed, the longitudinal axis was parallel to that of the tomb, and the latter runs in the middle between the arched passages. The arched passages that were filled with soil when excavated were obviously originally hollow and were used to reach the burial places inside the passages. The passages originally could be walked through at least from one narrow side; after the burial places were occupied they were bricked up (drawing 4). Such bricked-up openings are still visible on the preserved remnants of the respective narrow sides (fig. 65). Several tombs have chamber-like extensions in front; however, always only at the northern narrow side (fig. 66). The bottoms of these chamber-like extensions as well as those of the arched passages had been covered by a thin layer of light Gezira gravel.

The underground substructure shows similar differences, although not all tombs have one. One can talk of a substructure, if there exists a reduced amount of basic brick layers in the width. Besides single brick layers, there may also be compact brickwork. While this brickwork rests only on a clay mortar bed, in the case of a simple brick layer there may be another deposit of potsherds underneath which, besides a function to absorb damp, was at the same time used to provide a flat building site.

As far as the outside shape of the tomb is concerned, according to single findings one can assume that the buildings were plastered with limestone containing clay mortar thus giving the tomb a light, almost white colour. The bricked-up entries of the arched passages as well as the chamber-like extensions were also plastered; no clay mortar lightened up with limestone was detectable here. It can be assumed that the entries were optically emphasized by the colour of the plaster. Only inexact statements can also be given on surmounting parts of construction. On the one hand there were niche-like hollows at the eastern long sides of the respective tombs in which offering stelae were fixed. On the other hand, in one case a constructive element was found jutting out horizontally from the alignment of the walls; in another case the rounded shape of the roof at first changes into a horizontal overhang, before the descending bond starts. These bonds vary frequently in construction and shape. They vary not only from each other, i.e. from one tomb to the next, but partly also within themselves. In general one cannot make out clear principles of bond production, though in some cases clear intentions of the kind are evident.

In detail the constructive and architectural elements are distributed among the respective tombs as follows (# certain; + uncertain):

	substructure				outside shape			arched passage		annexed chamber		burial places			
serial number of tomb	simpel brick-layer	compact brick-work	potsherds deposit	clay mortar bed	roof rounded	roof flat	horizontal half-cylinder	1	2	1	2	1	2	3	4
1		#		#	#			#		#			#		
2							#					#			
3	#		#		#			#		#			#		
4	#		#	#	#			#		#			#		
5							#					#			
6							#					#			
7	+		+	#	#			#		+		#			
8		+	+	+	#			#		#			#		
9							#					#			
10	#			+	#			#				#			
11	#			+	#			#				#			
12		+		+		#			#		#		#		
13							#					#			
14	#			+	#			#				#			
15		+		+	#				#		#				#
16							#					#			
17		+		+	#				#		+				#
18		+			*	#			#		#				#
19							#					#			
20							#					#			

4.3.2. Measurement Lists

(Meaning of symbols: # yes/certain; - no/no data existing; + uncertain; * derived marks)

serial num-ber of tomb	tomb number when excavated	superstructure				substructure			vault		
		L. (cm)	W. (cm)	H. (cm)	built-up area (m^2)	L. (cm)	W. (cm)	H. (cm)	thick-ness (cm)	span (cm)	hight of piers (cm)
1	1978-1	500	300	150	15.0	500	250	90	14	150	60
2	1978-2	270	175	50	4.73	-	-	-	-	-	-
3	1978/79-3	480	275*	150	13.2	480	220*	8	22	120	25
4	1978/79-47	550	310	180	17.05	550	270	8	34	79	25
5	1978-88	230	150	60	3.45	-	-	-	-	-	-
6	1978-136	160	120	45	1.92	-	-	-	-	-	-
7	1978-143	430	320	195	13.76	430	-	8	-	-	-
8	1978-49	500	300	120	15.0	500	230	75	-	-	-
9	1978-48	230	195	70	4.49	-	-	-	-	-	-
10	1979-56	270	250	105	6.75	-	-	-	30	119	46
11	1979-61	285	210	110	5.99	285	190	9	14	45	10
12	1978/79-60	450	420	160	18.9	-	-	-	28	72	34
13	1978-53	310	200	80	6.2	-	-	-	-	-	-
14	1978-57	225	270	90	6.06	-	-	-	17	70	-
15	1978/79-135	585	490	295	28.67	-	-	-	-	-	-
16	1978-87	270	190	110	5.13	-	-	-	-	-	-
17	1979-149	715	580	270	41.47	-	-	-	25	80	20
18	-	665	460	130	30.59	665	430	16	20	80	20
19	-	230	120	60	2.76	-	-	-	-	-	-
20	-	270	170	90	4.59	-	-	-	-	-	-

serial number of tomb	nivellement marks						
	lowest point of superstructure					vault	bottom of the
	northwest	northeast	southwest	southeast	arithmetic avarage	highest point (outside)	burial place (arithmetic avarage)
1	- 0.043	- 0.036	- 0.205	- 0.137	- 0.106	+ 0.163	- 1.035
2	+ 0.388	+ 0.220	+ 0.290	+ 0.262	+ 0.290	-	+ 0.400
3	- 1.015	- 0.993	- 0.905	- 0.995	- 0.977	+ 0.065	- 0.988
4	- 1.087	- 1.192	- 0.986	- 1.126	- 1.098	- 0.125	- 0.979
5	+ 0.275	+ 0.109	+ 0.579	-	+ 0.321	-	+ 0.299
6	+ 0.092	+ 0.345	+ 0.107	+ 0.242	+ 0.197	-	- 0.041
7	- 1.055	- 1.063	-	-	- 1.059	-	- 1.215
8	-	- 0.243	-	- 0.128	- 0.186	- 0.390	- 0.941
9	+ 0.348	+ 0.208	+ 0.335	+ 0.317	+ 0.302	-	+ 0.295
10	- 0.171	- 0.245	- 0.371	- 0.217	- 0.251	+ 0.115	- 0.235
11	-	- 1.055	- 0.808	- 1.021	- 0.961	-	- 0.909
12	- 0.948	- 0.750	- 0.887	- 0.914	- 0.875	- 0.852	- 1.248
13	no data existing				above + 0.1	no data existing	
14	- 0.088	± 0.000	-	- 0.062	- 0.050	-	- 0.038
15	- 1.406	- 1.243	- 1.240	- 1.131	- 1.255	- 0.455	- 1.268
16	no data existing				above + 0.1	no data existing	
17	- 2.380	- 2.434	- 1.849	- 1.982	- 2.161	- 1.636	- 2.345
18	- 2.443	-	- 2.442	- 2.465	- 2.450	- 1.759	- 2.655
19	- 1.252	- 1.214	- 1.410	- 1.336	- 1.303	-	-
20	-	- 1.554	- 1.913	- 1.883	- 1.783	-	- 1.824

4.3.3. Synopsis for Measurement Lists and Constructive Elements with Evaluation

Comparison of the nivellement marks with constructive elements:

range number according to the depth of level	serial number of tomb	outside shape			arched passage		burial places (independent from occupation)			
		rounded	flat	horizontal half-cylinder	1	2	1	2	3	4
1	18		#			#				#
2	17	#				#				#
3	20			#			#			
4	19			#			#			
5	15	#				#				#
6	4	#			#			#		
7	7	#			#		#			
8	3	#			#			#		
9	11	#			#		#			
10	12		#			#		#		
11	10	#			#		#			
12	8	#			#			#		
13	1	#			#			#		
14	14	#			#		#			
15.5	13*			#			#			
15.5	16*			#			#			
17	6			#			#			
18	2			#			#			
19	9			#			#			
20	5			#			#			

Comparison of the size of built-up area with constructive elements:

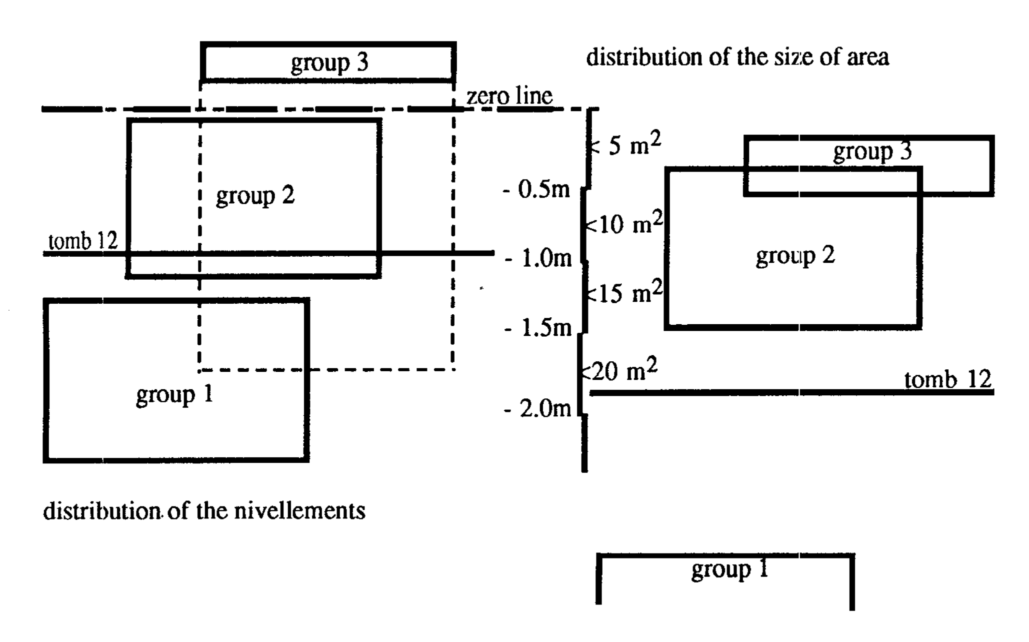
range number according to the size of the built-up area	serial number of tomb	outside shape			arched passage		burial places (independent from occupation)			
		rounded	flat	horizontal half cylinder	1	2	1	2	3	4
1	17	#				#				#
2	18		#			#				#
3	15	#				#				#
4	12		#			#		#		
5	4	#			#			#		
6.5	1	#			#			#		
6.5	8	#			#			#		
8	7	#			#		#			
9	3	#			#			#		
10	10	#			#		#			
11	13*			#			#			
12	14	#			#		#			
13	11	#			#		#			
14	16*			#			#			
15.5	2			#			#			
15.5	20			#			#			
17	9			#			#			
18	5			#			#			
19	19			#			#			
20	6			#			#			

Evaluation

The comparison of the range numbers of the tombs according to

- the depths and/or heights of their nivellement marks to selected constructive and/or architectural elements,
- the size of the built-up area to the same selected constructive elements,

shows clear classifications within the total of tombs. With regard to nivellement marks the first group is constituted by tombs 15, 17, and 18, the second one by tombs 1, 3, 4, 7, 8, 10, 11, and 14, and the third one by tombs 2, 5, 6, 9, 13, and 16. Tombs 12, 19, and 20 cannot be included in single groups as their depth level differs from the majority of existing tombs. With regard to the size of the built-up area, almost identical classifications emerged, though, here, tombs 19 and 20 can easily be included in group 3. Once more no clear classification is possible only in the case of tomb 12 which holds a position between the 1st and the 2nd group. Disregarding this tomb the distribution of height level and built-up area for the respective groups is the following:



distribution of the nivellements

The field marked by broken lines in the data concerning the distribution of nivellement shows a part that in fact is untypical for group 3. These are tombs 19 and 20 that lie relatively lower. However, they must be included in group 3 because of their building shape. One can explain this peculiarity from the two following aspects.

At first we must take into account that both tombs are situated in the immediate neighbourhood of the so-called Family Tomb. The basic layers of the other neighbouring

tombs - although these belong to group 1 - are extraordinarily deep. The construction work of the so-called Family Tomb might have led to a considerable lowering of the whole terrain next to it which still existed when tombs 19 and 20 were built much later, so the area would have been lower than the more distant area. In view of the findings of the south profile, this assumption appears to be quite probable. It is known that there is also another tomb immediately neighbouring the so-called Family Tomb that has not yet been investigated and stretching southwards into the profile (cf. drawing 1); this tomb, however, can certainly be included in group 3. Beside and above this tomb earth strata emerge which can clearly be recognized as artificially spread over the tomb. At the neighbouring marginal zones, i.e. in the west and in the east of the tomb which with the foundation level of - 1.204 is situated insignificantly higher than tombs 19 and 20, there are no changes in colour visible that could be interpreted as a pit for the foundation.

The fact that the still unopened tomb is covered with earth layers allows a second conclusion. It is known that Egyptian tombs, regardless of their actual mode of construction, can be distinguished by their being situated either above or underground. At the tomb complex not yet completely excavated a classification to one or the other of these two fundamentally different categories proves quite difficult. The actual building which is clearly situated above the earth was, however, covered by a layer of soil when the construction work was finished and the tomb was occupied; the recognizable shape of the covering does not give the impression of a designed memorial site (tumulus). Theoretically this could mean that the complex after covering was intended as underground. With regard to other tombs it could mean that in this group dug lower a priori were also possible. Thus, a second interpretation could be that tombs 19 and 20 were conceived as underground complexes from the start, and a shaft-like pit had been dug out before the construction work began. However, this assumption appears questionable not only because of the fact that such a construction conception cannot be affirmed in any other case within group 3. There is one aspect only where there are certain connections which could be interpreted as supporting this assumption on condition that the conceptional ideas were expanded. This is the aspect that besides of the dead inside a tomb of group 3 it was also possible to bury them in the earth and then a massive tomb might have been erected above the grave. However, in this case the tomb would have the character of a designed memorial site. As there are no such monuments we may exclude an expansion of such construction conception: it is quite impossible that a tomb designed as a memorial was built in a lowered, shaft-like building site.

Statistical calculations justified a classification of the existing material from the so-called Western Cemetery into several groups. When the question was investigated of whether there is a connection between the level of a tomb and the extension of the area on which it is built, the result was positive. Therefore Kendall's range correlation coefficient was defined, and nothing is against the hypothesis that there is a connection between foundation height and foundation area. To check whether the total of tombs can be classified into groups, the H-test by Kruskal and Wallies was applied. It should be proofed if the spot checks stem from one and the same total. However, there is a significant difference between the tomb groups and the respective built-up areas ($H_{(R\text{-}Niv.)} = 4.24$; $H_{(n\text{-}Fl.)} = 12.40$; $H_{0.05} \approx 5.34$). Thus the proposed classification is justified. The negative result with regard to the nivellement marks can be explained by taking into account the findings to be read from the profiles.

When the lowest and with that the oldest tombs were built the surrounding building site for the younger tombs was gradually elevated by the material dug out. This factor applies to all three groups, and the smaller the tomb buildings are the smaller is the amount of material dug out. The size of the buildings was not uniformly reduced, as is readable from the diagram of the distribution of area size as well as from the corresponding measurement list. There are always mathematically inascertainable dependencies to be taken into account, such as the social status of the dead as employer, or the craftmenship of the people who set up the buildings (skilled artisans, members of the family). Moreover, motivations for the choice of a certain site which also determined the starting level of construction work are hardly discoverable. In general all these factors today prove to be disturbing factors for calculation. Even though the H-test affirms the nil-hypothesis with regard to the nivellement marks, a negative correlation comes about through the negative quantity of Kendall's range correlation coefficient; at least this affirms the assumption that with growing height the size of the area which is covered by the superstructure becomes smaller.

In summary we can state that the tombs excavated up to now in the area of the so-called Western Cemetery can be divided into three groups.

Group 1: tombs 15, 17, and 18

Group 2: tombs 1, 3, 4, 7, 8, and 10

Group 3: tombs 2, 5, 9, 13, 16, 19, and 20.

Tomb 12 remains unclassified, because of the distribution of the nivellements and the sizes of the areas it ranges between group 1 and group 2. In order to record possible tomb types within the tomb groups we, finally, want to present once more the distribution of

constructive and architectural elements within the respective groups. In the order of tombs we have used information from the measurement list besides the existing similarities; these will be explained subsequent to the following chart:

serial number of tomb	substructure				outside shape			arched passage		annexed chamber		burial places			
	simpel brick-layer	compact brick-work	potsherds deposit	clay mortar bed	roof rounded	roof flat	horizontal half-cylinder	1	2	1	2	1	2	3	4
18		+				#			#		#				#
17		+		+	#				#		+				#
15		+		+	#				#		#				#
12		+		+		#			#		#		#		
1		#		#	#			#		#			#		
8		+	+	+	#			#		#			#		
4	#		#	#	#			#		#			#		
3	#		#		#			#		#			#		
7	+		+	#	#			#		+		#			
10	#			+	#			#				#			
14	#			+	#			#				#			
11	#			+	#			#				#			
13							#					#			
16							#					#			
2							#					#			
20							#					#			
9							#					#			
5							#					#			
6							#					#			
19							#					#			

The measurement lists show that at least for the 2nd and 3rd group single type forms can be also recorded within the respective total which contains differences and similarities, thus indicating a line of development.

Group 1 (tombs 15, 17, 18)

Although these tombs situated next to the so-called Family Tomb belong, according to their nivellements, to the oldest in the so-called Western Cemetery and constitute one group, there are construction differences. One factor tombs of group 1 always have in common is that there are two arched passages with a total of four burial places. For unknown reasons these were not fully used in the case of tomb 17, where only three, and tomb 15, where only two of the four places were occupied. In the case of these tombs it also remained uncertain whether special foundations were laid for each building. Under tomb 18 there is a single layer of bricks which is narrower than the superstructure. A comparison of the arithmetic average of the nivellement marks for the lowest point of the visible superstructure to that of the nivellement marks of the bottom of the burial places made the existence of such a brick layer quite probable. In the case of tomb 18 with a single brick layer foundation between the bottom of the burial place and the lowest point of the superstructure there is a difference of 20.5 cm; for tomb 17 it amounts to 18.4 cm, for tomb 15 to 13.7 cm. That the very probable brick layer was not documented as in tomb 18 can be explained by the fact that the foundation does not have the extension of the superstructure on the narrow sides. Thus, it was theoretically possible that the assumed brick layer lies in a clay mortar bed which analogues to other comparable applications examples, only insignificantly exceeds the measurements of the basic layer. By this principle of comparison a lower potsherd deposit can be excluded, as it considerably exceeds the area of the lowest brick layer on either side.

Further investigations - in spring 1985 some clearings were undertaken by search cuts in the internal space of tombs 4, 10, 12 and 15 down to the Gezira gravel - finally clarified this point just in the above mentioned interpretation: in case of tomb 15 the existence of a single brick layer foundation under the bottom of the burial places was proofed (drawing 5). The bricks of this layer were made by dense clay without any marl. In the same season it was possible to clarify the question of whether originally there were chamber-like extensions at the northern sides of tombs 17 and 15. While the complex of tomb 15 was built on the northern space in front of tomb 17 the space in front of tomb 15 is, in turn , covered partly

by the area of the villa-like estate from the New Kingdom and the rubble layers underneath. Such chambers can be presumed by the findings of tombs 12 and 18 where the arched passages have such extensions in front.

In result of investigations - carried out by clearings in the most southern inner part of tomb 15 down to the Gezira gravel - no remnants of chamber-like extensions in the north of tomb 17 could be found. In the case of tomb 15 two chambers were partly discovered; its extension to the north is still uncertain. That indicates the existence of chambers in general also in case of tomb 17. Here they must have been destroyed completely in connection with the construction work of tomb 15; a thick layer of a mixture of Nile mud and Gezira gravel was found underneath the foundation layer of this tomb.

Although the level of the lowest brick layer of the superstructure of tomb 17 and that of tomb 15 amount to approximately 1.0 m on average, both complexes show close similarities in their functional execution and shape. This may result from the close neighbourhood of both tombs; it could also emerges in the case of other tombs, but it did not necessarily lead to similarity in shape and mode of execution.

In this connection we would mention that an investigation of the relations of length and width brought no concrete results. From the measurements recorded the most approximate cubit measurements were reconstructed, on the assumption that the original measurements were based on the Egyptian cubit (it is, after all, possible that a reduction in measurement might have occured historically as well as by the modern excavation). In the case of tomb 17 we would thus attain a theoretical original measurement of 14 cubits length to 10 cubits width; for tomb 15 the proportion is 11.5 cubits length to 9.5 cubits width. The proportions of tombs 17 and 18 are identical; here there is a reconstructed proportion of 13 cubits length to 9 cubits width. The nivellement marks of both tombs show a difference of 30 cm. Another similarity between tombs 17 and 18 is the existence of four burial places and two arched pasages. However, in shape both tombs seem to be basically different. While the superstructural covering of tomb 17 is vaulted, the upper part of tomb 18 was found to be flat. The inside construction of tomb 18 is also different; two massive walls cross each other and divide the tomb into four separate chambers (cf. fig. 67 and 68). These walls show a certain similarity to tomb 12 where there are only two burial places, also separated by a bond. The upper part was also found to be flat. But the level of tomb 12 compared to tomb 18 differs by almost 1.5 m if the bottom of the burial place is taken as point of reference, thus showing almost a similar difference as the comparison with tomb

15. However, we must take into account that in tomb 12 the burial places are approximately 40 cm lower than the lowest brick layers of the superstructure, and this indicates a substructure consisting of compact brickwork. In this respect this building shows a mediatory position between groups 1 and 2; because of its relation to tomb 18 it is recorded under group 1 in our paragraph on description of special types of architecture.

Group 2

All buildings of this group have only one arched passage; in general a design element was a vaulted top. Different other elements make it possible to distinguish three variations.

Group 2.1 (tombs 1 and 8)

Tombs of this subgroup have a substructure of compact brickwork. In case of tomb 8 the existence of that substructure can only be presumed from the difference between the bottom of the burial place and the lowest point of the superstructure (75.6 cm). In the arched passage there are two burial places. In front of the opening of the arched passage towards the northern side there is a chamber-like extension. In the case of tomb 8 it is overlapped by tomb 7. The calculated original cubit measurements are identical (10 cubits to 6 cubits).

Group 2.2 (tombs 3, 4 and 7)

The most essential difference between the tombs of the mentioned subgroups lies in the design of the substructure: tombs of group 2.2 have a single brick layer instead of a compact brickwork construction; here, however, the space for building was prepared by a deposit of potsherds. The arched passages of tombs 3 and 4 each contain two burial places. However, only one burial place could be found in tomb 7.

When considering the total number of tombs in the so-called Western Cemetery and the amount of burial places in them there is a clear relationship between the architectural form and the architectural content of the buildings. At the same time a certain delay can be recorded in implementing changes in the architectural form because of the content. In the case of tomb 12 (type between groups 2.1 and 2.2) the burial places were reduced from four to two while maintaining the original conception of two arched passages, although previously it had been usual to put two burial places in one arched passage. Here, we can see that the constructive element "arched passage" was considered more important than the number of burial places. Also after the further reduction of burial places from two to one, the constructive element "arched passage" was maintained. Only the further development

brings about a change in this field, by the length of the arched passage being considerably reduced to correspond to only one burial place. This, however, led to a general shortening of the tomb complex as can be recorded for the following subgroup.

Group 2.3 (tombs 10, 11, and 14)

When single funerals became usual the arched passage lost its significance because its main purpose was multiple occupation at intervals of time. Moreover, the extremely reduced size of the tomb complex compared with tombs with two or four burial places, made it possible to build a tomb only when it was really needed. The essential constructive changes recorded in the last subgroup, then resulted.

Group 3

The eight tombs of this group can be divided into two subgroups, in accordance with the manner of burial. While in subgroup 3.1 (tombs 2, 13, 16, 20) the tombs have an internal burial place - a hollow space that was bricked up after the funeral -, the tombs of subgroup 3.2 (tombs 5, 6, 9, 19) were a massive construction. The dead person was buried in a pit, only afterwards was the tomb built above; and the positions of tomb and grave were not always absolutely identifical (drawing 6). In other words: the position of the body can considerably deviate in its longitudinal axis from that of the tomb; sometimes also a change in the north orientation is possible.

4.3.4. Description of Special Types of Architecture

We now want to give a detailed description of the various types of tombs in accordance with tomb classification. After proving a typology of the different tombs we can concentrate on the best preserved representative of each type. Only with regard to the much more differentiated construction principles of the single walls it is necessary to present a summary of the whole material.

4.3.4.1. Group 1

4.3.4.1.1. Type 1A (Tomb 18, Drawing 7)

Building Site

Before the tomb was built the building site was lowered to the level of the Gezira gravel.

No details can be given of the measurements of the lowered area, as the covering layer that emerged after the so-called Family Tomb - the oldest and largest tomb in the south-eastern part of the cemetery - was built, was used once more later to level out the building site for tomb 18, and thus, no differences in material in the profiles were recognizable.

In those places where later on the floor of the arched passages was built the level was lowered to correspond with the thickness of the flooring - for which bricks of 34 x 17 x 12 cm were used; and in the direction of the long sides the deepened surface is sloped (this slope obviously emerged naturally by Gezira gravel sliding down at the edges of the deepening; in the course of building, however, the slope was consciously used). Another slope can be assumed at the narrow sides, but that could not be proved.

The layer between the basic layer and the Gezira gravel which has a thickness of a maximum of 10 cm and consists of Gezira gravel slightly mixed with Nile mud and is thus somewhat darker does not show any artificial parts. We must assume that this layer was deposited in connection with the building project. It obviously served for levelling out the building site; compared with pure Gezira gravel the consistency of this layer was increased by being mixed with Nile mud.

Substructure

The foundation consists of two brick layers - except for the outer bricks of the second layer - laid diagonally to the longitudinal axis of the building. The second brick layer juts out at the long sides without, however, attaining the width of the superstructure. Only the third brick layer, the width of which again juts out on either side, reaches these measurements and is therefore considered the lowest brick layer of the superstructure. Up to the top of the sixth brick layer in the superstructure - this corresponds to the height of the inside vertex of the vault - the long sides of the building were filled up by Gezira gravel mixed with Nile mud; the thickness of this side deposit is 10 to 15 cm on top, and increases at the bottom through natural sloping to 25 to 30 cm.

The distance between both arched passages, whose longitudinal axis runs in a north-south direction is manufactured underneath the first basic layer by four bricks in diagonal direction that meet at the narrow sides. On the level of the lowest boundary of that brick layer underneath the foundation is the top level of the flooring in the arched passages. Next to the dividing wall between the arched passages there are bricks laid at a right angle to the

longitudinal axis of the tomb. These are followed towards the inside room of the arched passaeges by bricks laid parallel to the longitudinal axis. The boundary in direction to the outer long sides is also formed by bricks laid at a right angle to the axis, but these do not lie horizontally but incline towards the outer sides according to the slope of the subsoil. Thus, at the lowest edge the outer narrow side has the same level as the outer brick layers of the foundation. Clay mortar was filled into the hollow spaces towards the horizontally laid bricks that emerged because of the slope; another thick layer of clay mortar is at the narrow sides of the bricks that point towards the inside dividing wall between the arched passages.

Superstructure

The preserved remnants of the superstructure consist of a total of 16 layers of bricks most of which are laid diagonally to the longitudinal axis of the tomb. The vertical run of joints is staggered irregularly; some vertical joints of different layers lie one on top of the other. In the precincts of the vaulted arches thick layers of mortar join the horizontal brick layers.

In the first continuous brick layer above the vaulted arches the bricks on top are laid parallel to the longitudinal axis. To increase the stability of the brick work single bricks were laid unregularly throughout the construction in the longitudinal direction. In general the brick-dimensions are 30 x 15 x 7.5 cm. Only in the precincts next to the arched passages were smaller bricks used, and we cannot exclude the usage of brick breakage.

Up to the level of the third brick layer of the superstructure the brickwork juts out a little at the longitudinal axis of the arched passages. At the outer internal walls of the arched passages the third brick layer serves as abutment of the vault. Towards the internal dividing wall, however, the first brick layer (i. e. the fourth above the Gezira gravel in absolute record) was used as abutment; both abutments have more or less the same level.

Towards the top, the building is finished by a ledge-like projection on the wall. In the precincts of the eastern long side this projection was dismantled; here the building appears to be rounded. The ledge-like projection results from a 1/4 brick length jutting out of the 13th and 14th brick layer; the 14th and the 15th brick layers, however, form a homogeneous vertical finish towards the long sides. On the 15th brick layer there are remnants of another layer, the bricks of which are partly preserved but very thin. From a bird's-eye view the precincts of the four burial places would be seen in this brick layer; and also the walls in the tomb that form the chambers. As in the case of the other tombs with arched passages

these walls, too, were not covered massively but by deposit material consisting of a mixture of Gezira gravel, Nile mud and settlement rubbish. To lessen the pressure on the vault the outer long sides and the internal dividing wall jut out slightly towards the longitudinal axis of the arched passages; on the level of the 15th brick layer this projection on the wall amounts to 1/2 a brick length. From this finding as well as from comparisons with the building principles of the other tombs we can assume that very probably the building originally had a finishing element above the 15th brick layer that was already completely destroyed when the excavation was carried out. This assumption is indirectly affirmed by the comparatively extremely low height of tomb 18. The findings from the construction of the superstructure of tomb 17 (see the next type) also indicate the justifiability of this theory.

For the reconstruction of the superstructure of tomb 18 from the recorded considerations, the conclusion can be drawn that above the level of the 15th or another brick layer the building was completely covered by deposit material. Above this deposit, as in the case of tomb 17, the usual rounded finish could have been built by brick layers. Thus, the ledge-like projection on the wall on the level of the 13th to 15th brick layers would turn out to be not a decorative but a stabilizing element for the assumed rounded roof. The measurements of both tombs correspond if the height of the rounded finish is assumed to be identical with that of tomb 17.

In accordance with the findings of the western long wall the building was plastered outside with extreme marly clay. As marl fine, light Gezira gravel had been used; an addition of limestone chippings could not be proved.

4.3.4.1.2. Type 1B (Tomb 17; drawing 8)

Building Site

Before the tomb was built the building site was lowered to the level of the Gezira gravel. No details can be given of the measurements of the lowered area. As in the case of tomb 18 the covering strata on the Gezira gravel were dismantled and used later for the levelling of the building site of tomb 17; thus no differences of material could be made out in the profiles. In the south-southeast front space of tomb 17 the material dug out amounted to a maximum thickness of 1.5 m. Because of the neighbourhood of tomb 18 and the so-called Family Tomb, the building site will probably have only insignificantly exceeded the area on which tomb 17 was built later.

In accordance with the findings on the southern narrow side and the eastern long side, the building site is lowered hollow-like towards the inside and not horizontal. Thus - as in the case of tomb 18 - the building site sloped at the long sides and here also at the ends. The pressure of the brickwork of the building concentrated on the inner long and cross axis.

Between the Gezira gravel and the brickwork recognizable at the outer sides there is no layer of different consistency; it remains uncertain whether the same findings can be assumed underneath a probable basic layer.

Substructure

From the differences between the level marks of the lowest points of the burial places and those of the superstructure, a foundation of 3 to 5 brick layers in the internal precincts of the building can be assumed. The profiles outside the outer sides of the building do not allow such conclusions. At the southern end the bottom of the arched passages is on the same level as the dividing wall between them.

The distance between the two arched passages that run along the longitudinal axis of the tomb in north-south direction is 3.5 brick length throughout. Three bricks laid in longitudinal direction are enclosed sidewards by one laid crosswards. The foundation brick layer is about 25 cm lower in both arched passages.

Superstructure

The preserved remnants of the superstructure consist of a total of 30 brick layers. In the precincts of the vault arches thick packages of mortar as well as brick breakage join the horizontal brick layers which are mainly laid diagonally to the longitudinal axis of the tomb. The vertical run of the joints is staggered irregularly; some vertical joints of different layers lie directly one on top of the other. The horizontal joints are following the slope of the building site, i.e., they are ascending towards the outsides. Below the first compact brick layer on top of the vaulted arches the bricks are laid edgewise and parallel to the longitudinal axis. To increase the stability of the brickwork, compact layers of brick or single continuous bricks are laid longitudinally and edgewise without following a special system. In general the bricks' size is 30 x 15 x 7.5 cm.

The lower part of the building is a massive construction up to the top end of the vaulted arches. The arched passages with their burial places are cut out; their side walls are corbelled into the interior. The 11th brick layer completely covered the whole building. The

following brick layers, which form the main part of the structure, show a basically different architecture which apparantly was intended to save bricks. Attaining the width of two brick lenghts, the outsides have the shape of a wall, the 12th brick layer following the run of the 11th where the two layers touch each other. The 13th and 14th brick layers consist of bricks laid edgewise and rectangularly to the longitudinal axis. Only at the faces the bricks were laid edgewise and parallel to the longitudinal axis. The thus created internal hollow space embracing a little less than 6 x 4 m with a minimum lateral height of about 40 cm (= 2.5 brick lenghts + mortar joints) was filled with Gezira gravel. Towards the interior, i.e. the longitudinal axis of the tomb, this filling was increased and covered by a clay stratum of a maximum of 5 cm thickness. This clay stratum, meagered by small potsherds, also covered the lateral outer walls and showed itself at the outsides as a mortar joint. Due to this type of construction the central part has a vaulted appearance.

Finally, the upper part shows a very similar construction. The faces have the shape of walls attaining a width of two brick lenghts, with the single brick layers receding regularly to the longitudinal sides. After levelling the small steps, a semicircular rounding of the wall upwards is reached. The lateral longitudinal walls attain a thickness of two brick lengths in the 15th brick layer, too. Up to the 25th layer the thickness is maintained with the outer bricks receding slightly into the interior corresponding to the faces' shape. Towards the interior the single brick layers are corbelled respectively. The thickness of the last five layers is increasingly reduced; the last layer finally consists of one brick width only, the bricks are laid parallel to the longitudinal axis. The filling of the central part, which was rounded upwards and covered by a clay stratum, was built over arch-like by bricks consisting of meagered Nile mud. By means of this construction the pressure of both, this vault and the brick layers on top of it, was transferred to the longitudinal sides which had very massive lower layers. Due to the slope of the building site power was finally transmitted to the internal part of the tomb, thus considerably increasing the stability of the whole construction. It should be mentioned that normally meagered bricks laid rectangularly to the longitudinal axis were used again for the top cover of the whole tomb. Proceeding from this external condition the impression of a vaulted ceiling was conveyed which seemed to reach a span of about 4 m.

The outside of the construction was plastered with strongly meagered clay. To meagre it fine, light Gezira sand was used; an addition of limestone chippings could not be proved. Finally it should be noted in connection with tomb 17 that there are two consoles for

funerary stelae on the eastern longitudinal side, beginning at a distance of 1.2, and 2.3 m respectively from the southern face. Whilst the more southern console has a width of 1.5 brick lenghts (about 48-50 cm), the width of the other console reaches 2.5 brick lengths (about 78-80 cm). The top brick layers of the rectangular consoles are situated at the same level like the 30th layer of the building.

4.3.4.1.3. Special Type (Tomb 12; cf. fig. 64)

Building Site

Before the tomb was built the building site, covering an area of nearly 10 x 10 m, was lowered to a level immediately above the hill-like Gezira gravel (see 4.2.1.: The South Profile) within the area of the Nile mud deposit. While in the southern profile situated in the east of the building site, the strata ascending westwards were interrupted vertically, such a depression could not be noticed in the west of the building site. There the bottom of the building site gradually ascended westwards and after a distance of about 4 m reached the height of the flat top end of the tomb. While due to the structures of tombs 4 and 11 in the northern front space no usable findings could be made indicating the deliberate shaping of the building site, relevant results were achieved in the south of tomb 12 by means of the soil hue. The southern demarcation of the building site which showed itself nearly 4 m away from the tomb's external wall, sloped down vertically over a distance of more than 1 m and slanted to the level of the building site. Artificially distributed layers of soil could not be found in the building's environment.

Substructure

From the differences between the level marks of the lowest points of the burial places and those of the superstructure, a foundation of 5 to 7 brick layers in the internal precincts of the building can be assumed. The profiles below the outer sides of the building do not allow such conclusions. At the northern face the lowest points of the chamber-like extensions, the walls of which are based directly, i.e. without foundation, on the Nile mud deposit, as well as the burial places are situated on the same level.

Superstructure

The preserved remains of the superstructure consist of a total of 23 brick layers. In the precincts of the vaulted arches thick layers of mortar join the horizontal brick layers which are mainly laid rectangularly to the longitudinal axis of the nearly square tomb. The vertical run of the joints is staggered irregularly; some vertical joints of different layers lie directly

one on top of the other. In general the bricks' size is 34 x 17 x 8 cm while differences in the material used indicate two types of bricks. Proceeding from their deliberately different usage, an architecture can be noticed similar to that of tomb 17.

The lower part of the building is a massive construction up to the top end of the vaulted arches. The arched passages with their burial places were cut out; their side walls corbelled into the interior. The distance between the arched passages in the bottom area amounts to two brick lengths. The 15th brick layer completely covered the whole building. Up to this height bricks made of dense, nearly unmeagered Nile mud were used. However, to construct the upper part of the building normally meagered bricks were used. Following the measurements of tomb 17 again, walls attaining a thickness of 1.5 (northern and southern wall) and 2 brick lengths (western and eastern wall) were erected above the 15th brick layer, and an internal wall which is 2 brick lengths thick was additionally erected on the longitudinal axis. This wall is only 4 brick layers high. The area between the 19th and 23rd brick layer again completely covers the whole building. The hollow spaces above the arched passages had been filled with deposit material. Thus, the full pressure of the filling material as well as that of the brick cover rested on the vaulted arches which were completely crushed in the inner precinct.

The chamber-like extensions at the northern face were not directly connected with the real tomb construction; a thick layer of mortar joins them. The bricks made of meagered material were laid parallel to the longitudinal axis in north-south direction. The brickwork's thickness is half a brick length. The brickwork of the southern face is uniform and shows itself by rectangularly laid bricks also with a thickness of half a brick length only. The chamber-like extensions were obviously filled immediately after construction, since bricks are mounting the thin walls touching them with their front sides and jutting into the interior of the extensions, thus forming a domeshape construction. Inside, this domeshaped top end left semicircular opening towards the face of the tomb's superstructure. The external measurements of the chamber-like extensions which are mainly destroyed now due their light construction, were 1 m each in north-south direction and 3.2 m altogether in west-east direction. The western chamber had an internal dimension of 1.7 m. The height of the vertical brickwork was 1.18 m and it consisted of 14 brick layers; the height of the dome-shaped construction was between 42 and 45 cm. The points contacting the northern face end up on the 20th brick layer.

4.3.4.2. Group 2

4.3.4.2.1. Type 2 (Tomb 1; drawing 9)

Building Site.

No detailed information can be given about a deliberate change of the site on which the building was erected. The environment of tomb 1 was generally changed by buildings added later. Even parts of the structure itself (western longitudinal side) were mechanically removed. According to the only reliable findings at the south-east corner the ground could have been levelled before the construction work began. A vertical discolouration at that point which is interrupting the fine layers of the surrounding material seems to have emerged in connection with the construction of tomb 8. Artificially distributed soil layers could not be found.

The findings at the profile below the southern face of tomb 9 could be important to answer the question whether the building site had been specially prepared. The soil layers 70 cm below the basic layer of tomb 9 have a composition - mainly a mixture of Gezira gravel and Nile mud with a small proportion of settlement rubbish - similar to those layers touching tomb 1 at the same or lower levels. In their west-east extension they show the same, however, only difficultly recognizable horizontal, fine stratification. At a depth of 40 cm below the foundation of tomb 1 the white-yellowish layer of the virgin Gezira gravel can be found. Moving upwards this layer is increasingly penetrated by Nile mud. Rubbish could not be found in the respective soil layers. Soil layers of the same composition are situated below the basic layer of tomb 9, which, relating to the north-south extension, allows the calculation of a slope towards the foundation of tomb 1 of a little less than 60 cm per 1.5 m. If one transfers this finding to the area north of tomb 1 then the assumption of the existence of a pit would be justified. The measurements of this pit would exceed those of the tomb by about 2.0 to 2.5 m towards the sides.

Substructure

Before the beginning of the construction work a stratum of unmeagered clay of a thickness of 3.5 to 4.5 cm was laid on the levelled soil. This layer ascends slightly towards the lateral demarcations. The measurements of this stratum which should have rectangular form approximately correspond to those of the lowest brick layer. On this stratum a substructure attaining the height of 21 brick layers was erected with the lowest four brick layers slightly

corbelling outside. Starting with the 5th brick layer, the width is reduced by an average of half a brick length per layer. The smallest width in the substructure is finally reached at the 21st brick layer with 6 brick lengths.

The construction of the arched passage was exclusively effected in the precincts of the substructure. While the lower 6 brick layers were laid without cutouts, a space of 1.5 brick lengths each was cut out from the 7th to the 13th brick layer on both sides along the longitudinal axis. The vault begins at the level of the 12th brick layer. It is covered by the 21st brick layer. In the precincts of the vault structure, i.e. from the 16th to the 20th brick layer, the brickwork is corbelling into the interior towards the longitudinal axis.

The brickwork of the substructure is an irregular one. Without a recognizable system the bricks of the single layers were laid partly rectangularly, partly parallel to the longitudinal axis. Single bricks were laid edgewise, thus connecting two layers one upon the other. The construction material was very dense Nile mud bricks which were nearly unmeagered and had a size of 30 x 16 x 7 cm.

Superstructure

On top of the 21 brick layers of the substructure a total of 16 brick layers were found which could be regarded as superstructure. The most external layer, i.e. according to the above numeration the 16th layer, is situated on a mortar layer mixed with limestone chippings. It is laid parallel to the longitudinal axis and is repeating the rounding of the superstructure's top end. Since it was also covered by a mortar layer mixed with limestone chippings, it seems to have been deposited later for restoration purposes. Proof of this are also the differences in the construction of the brickwork below.

With a distance of about 2 brick lenghts to central longitudinal axis, 10 brick layers were laid on both sides, serving as longitudinal walls. Internally they slightly corbel toward the longitudinal axis, while externally they recede respectively. The hollow space between the two walls was filled with soil and covered by two brick layers. The two layers formed a rounded connection between the lateral slants of the walls. In the interior of this filled hollow space a relief arch built from dense Nile mud bricks was found which at its sides turned into V-shaped abutments. The internal hollow space of the V-shaped abutments, which at the same time served as foundation of the longitudinal walls on top of them, was filled with thick mortar layers and bricks laid edgewise and parallel to the longitudinal axis,

thus forming a plan support for the longitudinal walls. The V-shaped abutments which went down to the 15th brick layer of the substructure, transferred the pressure exerted by the superstructure's brickwork with its filled hollow space - similar to the construction applied in type 1 - to the soil sidewards.

The faces of the superstructure were constructed as massive walls with a thickness of 2 brick lenghts. The single brick layers recede irregularly towards the longitudinal sides according to the desired rounding of the substructure. Super- and substructure are joined by bricks laid edgewise and parallel to the longitudinal axis. These bricks reached to the lateral demarcations of the topmost layer of the substructure. The bricks of the superstructures' second layer utilize the V-shaped abutments of the inner relief arch as foundation. At the third brick layer the superstructure is attaining its largest width with 10 brick lengths; the measurements of the faces can be concluded from this dimension. The sixth layer of the faces had been built with bricks sized 30 x 15 x 15 cm which were laid parallel to the longitudinal axis. Towards the longitudinal sides of the superstructure the width of the sixth layer is reduced by one brick length compared with the third brick layer. Since this is the area where the 16th brick layer, based on a layer of plaster, ends, the former surface level can be assumed to have been there. Although the parts of the superstructure situated below the sixth brick layer were built underground, they must be assigned to the superstructure. This conclusion can be drawn on the basis of their construction as well as the building material used which consists of extremely meagered Nile mud bricks sized 30 x 15 x 7 cm (exception: sixth brick layer).

4.3.4.2.2. Type 3A (Tomb 4; drawing 10)

Building Site

Since the soil layers below the foundation of tomb 4 ascend slightly uninterrupted from west to east and show differing proportions of rubbish, the assumption of the existence of a pit can be excluded. However, the area seems to have been levelled before the commencement of construction work. For this purpose the breakage of rough pottery was used exclusively. We can speak, therefore, of a breakage bank which obviously served as protection against high soil humidity. Since this breakage bank still lies about 1.5 m above the basic layers of tombs 17 and 18, the ground water level seems to have been considerably higher during the period of the construction of tomb 4. Above this breakage deposit a stratum of 4 to 5 cm thickness can be found consisting of nearly unmeagered Nile mud. The stratum's

measurements were about 6.3 x 3.7 m; at the lateral demarcations it ended with gradually reduced thickness. Since the clay stratum in these precincts is rising by steps by about 7 cm, it must have been laid in direct connection with the shifting of the lowest layer. The soil layer which can be realized sidewards of tomb 4 in the profiles and which encloses the building band-like in the areas which can be tested, this band attaining a width of 1.1 m with a maximum thickness of 15 cm, comprises only little rubbish and seems to have been laid also in connection with the construction project.

Substructure

The foundation consists of two brick layers laid parallel to the longitudinal axis of the building. The second brick layer is 2.5 brick widths wider than the one below. For this reason the outer bricks directly contact the clay stratum. On both sides along the longitudinal axis in the precincts of the burial places a space of six brick widths was cut out in the two brick layers, so the breakage deposit forms the paving of the arched passage. The third brick layer, which has with 10 brick lenghts the largest width within the building, and at which a space of three brick widths each was cut out on both sides along the longitudinal axis like at the second brick layer of the arched passage, is being considered as the lowest brick layer of the superstructure.

Superstructure

The superstructure consists of a total of 22 brick layers which were laid without recognizable system partly rectangularly, partly parallel to the longitudinal axis. The vertical run of the joints is staggered irregularly; some vertical joints of different layers lie directly one on top of the other. Noticeable is the deliberate laying of thick mortar joints in order to get the desired recesses at the single brick layers over the given width. Parallel to the longitudinal axis, the first, second, third, and forth brick layers leave a space of a total of six brick lengths for the arched passage. Since no faces were erected these precincts were bricked later at the narrow sides. While two bricks laid edgewise on top of both narrow sides serve as internal abutments of the vaulted arch, the hollow space in between was walled up with bricks laid edgewise and parallel to the longitudinal axis up to the level of the third brick layer of the superstructure. The semicircular space on top of it was finally closed up by thick mortar deposits and stone breakage. The structure between the fifth and 14th brick layers (the 14th brick layer included) has been erected as longitudinal walls which are corbelled inside and slightly recede outside. There, too, vertical joints of differing thickness

were applied in order to get the recesses necessary for the external shaping of the building. The internal space has been filled with soil layers; two different relief arches could be found there. The lower relief arch is based directly on the vertex of the vaulted arch. Thick mortar layers on the fourth brick layer serve as abutment; the outer bricks of the relief arch are additionally fixed by the corbelling bricks of the fifth, sixth and seventh brick layers. The internal bricks at the seventh brick layer serve, at the same time, as abutment of a second relief arch which had, however, a low stability due to its construction. Because of the addition of this further relief arch the eighth brick layer recedes internally by one brick width; the succeeding brick layers upwards again are corbelling towards the interior. The 15th brick layer, two brick lenghts thick, covered the upper relief arch at the faces; in the superstructure's internal precincts, however, a space was left which reduced by the corbelling of the single brick layers. After filling this hollow space it was closed up by the 21st brick layer. The 22nd brick layer exclusively served the achievement of a proportionate rounding of the outside. While the single layers from the 13th to the 17th one are receding half a brick width on the average, the distance at the succeeding layers is increased by half a brick length. Thus the steps, including the 22nd brick layer, have got the same size.

In the area of the 13th and 17th brick layers two funerary stelae were placed at the eastern side. For this purpose two niches of a width of 1.5 brick lenghts each were cut into the external brickwork after completion of construction work. The distance of the northern niche from the northern face is five brick widths; the distance between the niches themselves is four brick lenghts.

Uniformly meagered Nile mud bricks sized 32 x 15 x 7.5 cm were used as building material. Externally tomb 4 was plastered with strongly meagered Nile mud. To meagre it fine, light Gezira sand was used.

4.3.4.2.3. Type 3B (Tomb 3; drawing 11)

Building Site

Tomb 3 was built in the immediate west of tomb 4 after the building site had been prepared, following the above-mentioned principle which could be witnessed there, too. Contrary to tomb 4 the building site in this case was lowered on an area of about 7 x 3.5 m to the height of the potsherds deposit below tomb 4 and afterwards filled with rough pottery breakage; due to the similarity of the deposit material it is very difficult to recognize the nearly vertical demarcation line between the two breakage deposits. The clay stratum situated

below the foundation at the western longitudinal side of tomb 4 was trenched absolutely vertically. As in case of tomb 4 here, too, a 3 to 4 cm thick clay stratum covering an area of 5 x 3 m was laid on the breakage deposite. At its lateral demarcations this clay stratum ended with gradually reduced thickness. Another breakage deposite consisting of rough pottery, however strongly mixed with mortar paste, was again laid on this clay stratum. The measurements of this deposit exceed only about 10 cm of the building itself; they are identical only in the precincts touching tomb 4. The lowest brick layer has been laid in a mortar bed which reaches a thickness of up to 7 cm and which has been raised sidewards up to the level of the fourth brick layer. By means of this way of preparing the building site the building was highly protected against rising soil humidity. Remarkable in this connection is the change of the longitudinal axis' direction; compared with tomb 4 it deviates by about 15° towards the west. This might indicate the transfer of the Pelusian Nile branch due to intensified water flows. Since the tombs of the Western Cemetery are in general directed towards the Nile north, an explanation is found for the deliberate deviation of the longitudinal axis of tomb 3, the consequence of which is that the building's southern part is more and more based on tomb 4.

Substructure

The foundation consists of light brick layers with the brick-laying method changing from the stretcher to the binder technique. Such a deliberately different brick-laying technique can be noticed only at the four lower brick layers and is not repeated in the upper areas. By means of thicker vertical joints the outside projection of every third and fourth brick layer was reached. The width of a total of six brick lengths attained with the fourth brick layer is being maintained by the following two brick layers. The seventh and eighth brick layer corbel again. The eighth layer consists of only one brick laid rectangularly and two bricks laid parallel to the longitudinal axis, since an increasingly bigger space is left internally starting with the fourth brick layer for the arched passage. Contrary to the types of tombs discussed before, the inner arched passage is growing with a wall thickness reduced from a span of 2.5 brick lengths at the fourth layer to 4 brick lengths at the seventh layer. Based on this is a very extended vault construction following the style of a so-called Prussian cap which is laterally fixed by the bricks of the eighth layer. Furthermore, there is the soil surrounding the substructure to which the pressure of the vault is transferred because of the slope resulting from the projection of the seventh, eight and also ninth brick layer. The ninth brick layer, which theoretically constitutes the largest width of the building with 8 brick lenghts, is therefore being considered the superstructure's lowest brick layer.

Superstructure

The superstructure consists of a total of 12 brick layers which were laid without recognizable system partly rectangularly, partly parallel to the longitudinal axis. The lower three brick layers consist of bricks laid only side by side and those laid rectangularly to the longitudinal axis leading to the formation of walls on both sides attaining a thickness of one brick length. In the interior the distance between the two walls amounts to six brick lenghts. Starting with the fourth brick layer of the superstructure the bricks corbel inside thus diminishing the space in the interior with the number of layers rising; the 11th and the 12th brick layers cover internal hollow space. It must be mentioned that starting with the eighth brick layer the building has got a slightly rounded top end because of the recession of the single brick layers by a total of half a brick length each.

As already mentioned tomb 3 has been partly built on the structure of tomb 4. As a consequence the eastern longitudinal side, being the real contact area, cannot completely follow the construction principle described. The regularity of the brickwork, which was obviously intended according to the outer shaping in the upper part of the building, cannot be principally presumed in the inner precincts. This is particularly clearly shown in the brickwork of the southern face. There the bricks have been laid irregularly in order to form the linkage to tomb 4. Regarding the outer joints at the southern and western sides it seems that the building had at first been erected in the superstructure up to a height of seven brick layers only. Proof of this impression are also the findings of the vault construction.

After completion of the substructure the space planned for the arched passages was evidently plastered with stone breakage and thick mortar layers in such a way that a passage of a width of about two brick lengths was left internally. Up to the level of the seventh brick layer of the superstructure the vault extension and the superstructure's brickwork seem to have been erected at the same time; evidence of this might be the double vault construction which ends at the above-mentioned height. Since the arched passage was slightly sloping towards the south and only limited construction space was available in the demarcation areas to tomb 4 in the superstructure's lower part, differences in the total height were resulting. An attempt was made adjust these differences with the eighth brick layer. From the ninth to the 12th brick layer the structure was built over very regularly; the filling of the internal space leading to a slight excess.

As building material relatively strongly meagered Nile mud bricks were used. Their measures in the upper part of the buildings were regular with 30 x 15 x 8 cm. In the lower parts, however, the measures were differing; the biggest bricks found were 34 x 16 x 10.5 cm. Externally the tomb was plastered with a very thin layer of strongly meagered Nile mud. As meagering material fine, nearly white Gezira sand was used. Only the southern face was plastered with a layer of up to 4 cm.

4.3.4.2.4. Type 4 (Tomb 10; drawing 12)

Building site

According to the findings at the profile areas no major lowering of the building site could be noticed. It can clearly be stated that the area had been levelled before the commencement of construction work. For this purpose little soil was removed in case of tomb 10, in case of tomb 11, however, the area had to be filled partially.

Substructure

After levelling the building site a foundation was laid with one or two brick layers; the thickness of the mortar layer situated between the soil and the first brick layer does not seem to indicate the existence of a mortar bed. In case of tomb 10 the foundation of which is a brick layer which only slightly exceeds the measurements of the superstructure, this mortar layer is in general 3 cm thick. Concerning tomb 11, where the foundation is formed by two brick layers the width of which is reduced by one brick length in the aggregate, the mortar layer has a thickness reaching between 1 and 2 cm only. Therefore, the assumption is justified that the mortar below the bricks has been added not for the purpose of isolation against rising soil humidity, but only to fix the bricks. In general the construction of the respective substructures does not support the assumption that an increased ground water level was prevailing at the time when tombs of this type were erected. This is imporant in particular regarding the relatively deeply situated foundation of tomb 11, because it lies on an average of 10 cm deeper than those buildings which were specially protected against soil humidity by breakage deposits and Nile mud packages. Since the run of the tombs' longitudinal axis was again following the Nile to the north, as it used to be the past, the theory of a short-term change of the course of the Pelusian Nile branch near Bubastis at the time of the beginning of the 6th Dynasty was supported by these findings.

Superstructure

The superstructure's construction in the case of the tombs of this modificaiton is in closest connection with the construction of the arched passages usual here. They do not have an abutment, but are based with their springers directly on the substructure. Since the width of the arched passages is considerably smaller than the span of the vault - as in tomb 3 the resulting space was filled with stone breakage and thick mortar packages or by compact brickwork consisting of bricks laid parallel to the longitudinal axis - here again a two- stage mode of construction was possible. The brickwork construction in the upper precincts does support this assumption, too.

In case of tomb 10 the superstructure consists of 17 brick layers. Up to the level of the superstructure's ninth brick layer the brickwork has been erected with staggered vertical joints. The staggers, sometimes very slight, result from the corbelling of the brickwork towards the interior of the arched passage with the brick layers at the outer longitudinal sides receding respectively. The respective differences result from the increasing rounding of the vaulted arch in the interior which contacts the brickwork of the longitudinal sides by means of relatively thin mortar packages. Since the internal filling of the arched passage reaches up to the fifth brick layer which, when added to the rounded stones of the vault, finally reaches the level of the lower demarcation of the ninth brick layer, the tomb structure was obviously uniformly erected up to this area. The arch could then be closed without using a gauge. The ninth and 12th brick layers which, too, consist of bricks parallel to the longitudinal axis, have vertical joints one on top of the other. At the external longitudinal sides the layers moving upwards recede by one brick width each. The ninth and tenth brick layers corbel by one brick length each repectively, the 11th and 12th brick layer, however, maintain their distance to the longitudinal axis. Thus, a hollow space which has been filled by a soil deposit, was created in the area between the tenth and 12th brick layers on top of the vaulted arch. The 13th brick layer, consisting of bricks laid edgewise and parallel to the longitudinal axis above the self-supporting parts of the arch and which is thus two brick layers thick, was covering the above-mentioned filling. The 14th brick layer which was added only to adjust the distance in heigth between the internal and external parts of the 13th brick layer, served exclusively the outer shaping of the tomb; the same applies to the succeeding brick layers the vertical joints of which lie again one on top of the other and the bricks of which are laid, too, parallel to the longitudinal axis.

The shaping of the faces could not be completely analysed because the southern face of tomb 10 and the northern face of tomb 11 are concealing each other. According to the findings of tomb 11 the southern face was erected solidly. Since the tombs of this modification have only one burial place within their arched passages, such a way of construction seems to be very probable also in the case of the southern face of tomb 10. The northern face of tomb 11 shows the opening of the arched passage which was walled up later. This opening can be assumed to be also at that side of tomb 10.

Externally, the buildings were plastered with strongly meagered clay. To meager it relatively coarse Gezira gravel was used the hue of which did not quite reach the brightness of the fine Gezira sand. As building material bricks sized 34 x 16 x 7.5 cm (tomb 10), 32 x 14 x 7.5 cm (tomb 11) and 34 x 16 x 8 cm (tomb 14) were used. Concerning the lower brick layers of tomb 11 also very thin bricks of only 4 cm thickness were used. The bricks consist of meagered Nile mud; in this case, too, the graining of the meagering material is quite coarse to some extent.

4.3.4.3. Group 3

4.3.4.3.1. Type 5 (Tomb 2; drawing 13)

Building Site

As building site for tomb 2 the area situated in the immediate south of tomb 1 was used. The profile below the southern face of tomb 2 shows soil layers with a different run and with a to some extent very high concentration of rubbish. The unevenness of these soil layers were not levelled by deposits or excavations, i.e., the building site was not prepared.

Substructure

The tombs of group 3 do not have a substructure. The bricks of the superstructure lie directly on the soil without an intermediate mortar layer.

Superstructure

After laying the paving-stones (= first brick layer) which seem to have served mainly for levelling the building site, the deceased in his sarcophagus was centrally positioned on this layer (in case of tomb 2 bricks of different thickness as well as mortar layers on the first brick layer serve the creation of a more or less uniform ground level). After placing the sarcophagus on the above-mentioned first brick layer it was completely walled in. The

number of layers added herewith differ with respect to the single tombs; tomb 2 shows four brick layers, tomb 16, however, shows more than the double number. The internal hollow space, in which the sarcophagus was already situated, was filled with soil up to the level of the added brick structure. Afterwards the building was covered by several brick layers; tomb 2 had two of them, tomb 16 showed, however, four layers. For the purpose of the desired outer shaping, which followed the pattern of the already existing tombs on the Western Cemetery, all brick layers were laid already with slight recesses towards the longitudinal sides of the tombs. In single cases (tomb 2, tomb 16) vestiges of a plastering could be found on the brick structure. Additionally to fine, light Gezira sand and fine limestone chippings (tomb 2) also coarse Gezira gravel (tomb 16) could have been used to meager the Nile mud. Tomb 20, however, does not seem to have been plastered, but to have been surrounded at all sides by soil after completion of the construction work.The brick's size used in the single tombs are differing; generally the size 33 x 15 x 7 cm is dominating. Besides organic substances (obviously some kind of chaff) also fine rubbish (the smallest potsherds breakage and crushed bones) and relatively coarse Gezira gravel were used as meagering material.

4.3.4.3.2. Type 6 (Tomb 6; drawing 14)

Building site

As building site for tomb 6 the area situated in the immediate north of tomb 7 was used. The profile below the northern face of tomb 6 shows soil layers with a different run and with a to some extent very high concentration of rubbish. At both sides along the longitudinal axis a small deposit is showing in the highest soil layer. This deposit is the material excavated to dig the pit. The deceased in his sarcophagus was buried in this pit; afterwards the ground was slightly levelled on top of this burial place. Since a major unevenness remained in the topmost soil layer despite this levelling filling, one cannot speak of a real levelling of the building area.

Substructure

The tombs of group 3 do not have a substructure. Since the tombs' pit were only lowered in the soil and filled after the funeral with the excavated material, one cannot speak of a substructure. The bricks of the superstructure lie directly on the soil without an intermediate mortar layer.

Superstructure

After the deceased had been buried, paving-stones (= first brick layer) were laid mainly to level the still existing unevenness on the building site. Since there is no connection regarding the structural technique between the burial place itself and the tomb structure, variations may occur in case of comparison of the two burial elements. Thus, regarding tomb 6 the sarcophagus containing the deceased was situated in the very far west of its longitudinal axis. The succeeding brick layers were laid massively on the paving-stones again showing recesses towards the longitudinal sides. Thus the usual steps were erected externally which were levelled by plaster as proved by the findings of tomb 6. While on tomb 19 no plaster vestiges could be found, the above-mentioned shaping applies also to the other tombs of type 6. As plastering material Nile mud meagered with fine, light Gezira sand was used; in mortar and Nile mud bricks, however, coarse Gezira gravel and fine rubbish were used as meagering material. Organic susbtances (except crushed bones) could not be found in the bricks. The size of the bricks used in all tombs of this type is relatively big compared with the size of those used for other types of tombs. Mainly bricks sized 37 x 17 x 9 cm were used, only tomb 6 shows a uniform size of 33 x 15 x 8 cm.

4.3.4.4. Final Remarks

Regarding the distribution of the tomb groups or tomb types on the area of the so-called Western Cemetery it can be noticed that between the tombs of one group relations as could be found between several construction elements are only limited in connection with their shape. It can be realized in several cases, however, that a complex is formed by tombs of different types, partly of different groups. Thus, tombs 1 and 2 form a complex, tombs 6 to 9 another one, which may probably also be connected with the complex formed by tombs 13 and 15 to 17. This formation of complexes must be considered as speciality. In principle it does not emanate from the limitation of the area of the so-called Western Cemetery, as can be proved by the complex formed by tombs 3 and 4. Tomb 3, which in its southern part has been partly walled up on top of tomb 4, could also have been erected independently in the west of tomb 4 with the changed direction of the logitudinal axis taken into consideration. The same applies to the complex of tombs 6 to 9, where tombs 6 and 9 in particular could have been easily built in front of tombs 7 and 8 from the spatial point of view. It must remain open whether such a statement also can be made in case of those tombs which have been built on the top ends of buildings on a lower level (e.g. tombs 13

and 16). Theoretically this could be possible in such cases where after filling the lower area of the so-called Western Cemetery this area was afterwards used once again without any relation to the covered tombs.

One possible explanation of this speciality could result from the interpretation of the findings related to the complex formed by tombs 15 and 17 as well as tombs 13 and 15 to 17. Tombs 15 and 17 do represent type 1, the characteristics of which are, among others, two arched passages with a total of four burial places. According to the nivellement marks the assumption is highly probable that tomb 17 was constructed earlier than tomb 15 which abuts its northern face. It is remarkable in this connection that not all burial places were occupied in tomb 17. Although there was a walled up entrance both to the western arched passage, two burial places of which had been used, and to the eastern arched passage, here only the northern burial place, the one more distant from the entrance, was occupied. The southern burial place was not used. The similar procedure was found relating to the occupation of the burial places of tomb 15. In the total of four burial places there were only two occupied with a strange distribution. While in the western arched passage the southern place was occupied, in the eastern arched passage the northern place was used. It can be principally assumed that the building owner, having been the potential user of the tomb, had calculated the number of burial places according to the number of those persons he wished to have with him after death. Unless these persons did not die before himself he could not have objected to any change of their own ideas of a burial place. Incidentally, the above-mentioned people were almost certainly conncected with him by family ties. Because of the close spatial contact between tombs 17 and 15 the theory becomes highly probable that the building owner of tomb 15 was the person for which the free burial place in tomb 17 had been constructed. If no further connected tomb structure is found during continued excavation work in the northern area of tomb 15, the connection between tombs 17 and 8 could be explained in the same way. Thus the persons buried in tomb 8 would be those for which the free burial places in tomb 15 had originally been planned. Tomb 8 belongs to type 2, following type 1 according to its architectural characteristics. Since the family ties between the building owners of tomb 17 and 8 had probably been closer (father-son) than to the building owner of tomb 15 (brother), and since, however, the northern and southern approaches of tomb 17 could not be used for constructional purposes any more, the area in the west of tomb 17 was selected as the building site of tomb 8. Following tomb 8 at its northern face is a structure of type 3, namely tomb 7. There for the first time only one

burial place was constructed. Follwoing tomb 7 a tomb of type 6 (tomb 6) was built later, again in the north. At approximately the same time the building site in the south of tomb 8 was used for tomb 9 which also is a representative of type 6.

To emphasize this supposition, the interpretation of the findings in case of tombs 1 and 2 could be cited. It is already known that the outside of tomb 1 had been plastered with a mixture of mortar and limestone chippings after completion of the building. This primary plaster package could be found up to the upper level of the V-shaped abutment of the internal relief arch. After the obviously strong delapidation of the plaster the building was secondarily covered with a new brick layer. This layer attains, however, only the height which corresponds with the level of the building area of tomb 2 immediately following the southern face of tomb 1. The new brick layer was again plastered. The plaster is similar to that of tomb 2 regarding the way of its composition. Such a restoration can quite easily be explained by the family ties between the respective tomb owners.

In general the assumption seems to be justified that the complexes of different tomb groups or tomb types can be explained by the family ties between the respective tomb owners. Thus, the complexes could be interpreted as family cemeteries finally results from the differing estimation of the tomb owner's lifetime. Basically the end of the 6th Dynasty can be assumed to have been the time valid for types 5 and 6 in connection with the dating of the funerary stelae usual in case of types 1 to 3.

4.4. The Funerary Stelae

Some of the tombs of the so-called Western Cemetery had niches in their eastern walls in which the funerary stelae of limestone were situated. The stelae were originally painted green and reddish brown; some of them were or are bearing pictures of the deceased and his relatives. Due to the deep level of the cemetery there was a permanent contact between the limestone plates and the slightly acid soil humidity, thus making the stone substance only a little harder than chalk. The excavation and lifting of the pieces, which now are part of the study collection of the Zagazig University, was therefore extremely complicated. The epigraphic record of the material was made 1982; in the meantime the condition of the stelae has deteriorated.

4.4.1. The Funerary Stelae of Tomb 1

4.4.1.1. Funerary Stela No. 162 (drawing 15; fig. 69, 70)

The stela was situated in the northern niche of the eastern wall (fig. 69). The inscription consists of four horizontal lines running from the left to the right and of one vertical line with demarcation lines (fig. 70). This line is missing below the fourth horizontal line. On the inscription's right the picture of a standing man with a stick was applied in a sunk relief, in front of which only few vestiges of the figure of a woman, also standing, can be made out below his right arm. The lower part of this figure is almost completely destroyed, only below the right arm remnants of an offering mat are distinguishable. The beginning of the fourth line, too, is partly destroyed, which seems to have been effected by the use of force.

Dimension of the stela: 77.5 x 35.5 cm

Inscription:

5

1

2

3

4

Translation:

1 A boon which the king gives, a boon which is given to Anubis in front of the divine-hall, the *jmj-wt*, the Lord of the Sacred Land (i.e. the necropolis), invocation-offerings for him,[a]

2 and a boon which is given to Osiris[b], that he may walk on the beautiful ways the honoured people used to walk on.

3 The honoured one by the great god, the overseer of the granite *Nj-B3stt*[c] ('s son) *Nb-sn*.

4 The honoured[d] one by Bastet[e] by ...[f]

5 The overseer of the granite *Nj-B3stt* ('s son) *Nb-sn*.[g]

Comments:

a) The determinative of *prj-ḫrw* is not clearly visible. The signs of bread and beer are intact, possibly there were some more but now decayed signs written below these two determinatives, perhaps the heads of a bird and a bull.

b) Only (*jr*) and the backside of the determinative of gods are clear visible.

c) The sign (*b3*) is destroyed; in the inscription of *Mšt* (no. 397) this hieroglyph is clearly written and therefore it may be inserted here, too.

d) The ending *-w* of *jm3ḫw* is destroyed. The gap between and is sufficient to assume that the destroyed sign was the of *jm3ḫw* .

e) After *jm3ḫw ḫr* follows the name of the goddess Bastet. Even here the hierologyph is not preserved.

f) This group is assumed to be the name of another god which depends upon and joined with *jm3ḫw* by the preposition *ḫr*. It is uncertain which god is mentioned here. The hieroglyphs could be a representation of *hjt sṯjt* "Eastern hall", being an expression of a holy place in the Eastern Delta. According to Wb II 476 the writing is a possible one for *hjt*. The ending may be split by a to in hieroglyphic writing. The term *hjt sṯjt* is not attested, neither in Wb and WbZ nor in Gauthier (Dict. géogr.).

g) Only the beginning of the name *Nb-sn* is certain in the vertical line. For the missing parts compare line 2. It is not clear if an epithet (e.g. *nb jm3ḫ*) or a determinative followed the name.

The inscription belongs obviously to a brother of *Mtn*, who was the possessor of tomb no. 17 and for whom the stela no. 397 was composed; both mentioning *Nj- B3stt* to be their father. The filiation is inverse, i.e. the name of the father preceeds that of the son. The main characteristic to decide whether the filiation is an inverse one are not, is the existence of an own determinative attached to each name.

Nb-sn bears the title *jmj-r3 m3w.t*, "Overseer of the granite". The reading of this title is without any doubt, though it seems to be strange in Bubastis, a region which is short in stone. Therefore the title should be translated as "Overseer of the granite-workers" (which were producing stone vessels). This title is hitherto not attested but compare the inscription of a scene of workmen which are squatting on the floor and producing (Newberry, Beni Hassan II, pl. IV). A man holding a staff enters this scene; the inscription reads: *wr n m3w.t* "greatest of the granite". This title should be seen, too, in connection with the production of granite vessels.

The name *Nb-sn* is well attested from the Old Kingdom (RPN I 186.13). The father of *Nb-sn* is named *Nj-B3s.t.t*, a name which was unknown till now for the Old Kingdom; according to Ranke (RPN I 174.18) this name came in use during Dynasty 22 as *Nj-B3s.t.t*. Constructions as *Nj* + name of a god are well known and common during the Old Kingdom (e.g. RPN I 172.14, *Nj-Pth*).

4.4.1.2. Funerary Stela No. 163 (drawing 16, fig. 71)

This stela was walled up in the southern niche of the eastwall, with the decorated surface facing the tomb wall. The inscription consists of six horizontal lines running from right to left with bordermarkings. On the left side of the main inscription six vertical lines are visible, partly with bordermarkings, too. The vertical inscription belongs to the figure of a standing man who holds a staff. Behind the male figure traces of a female one are visible, obviously the representation of his wife. In front of these persons two small male figures, obviously the sons of the deceased, are depicted. The inscriptions accompanying these figures are in a bad state of preservation, mostly illegible.

Dimension of the stela: 67 x 26.5 cm

Inscription:

1

2

3

4

5

6

12 11 10 9 8 7

Translation:

1 A boon which the king gives, a boon (which is given to) Anubis in front of the divine hall[a], the *jmj-wt*, the Lord of the Sacred Land (i.e. the necropolis), [the Lord] of a good burial,[b]

2 and a boon which the king gives, a (boon which is given to) Osiris the first of Busiris[c], his invocation-offering for the feast of the New Year, for the Thot-feast,

3 for the feast of the beginning of the year, for the *w3g*-feast[d], for the Sokaris-[feast][e], for every big and small feast, for every day.

4 A boon which the king gives, (a boon which is given to) Osiris[f], that he may walk on the beautiful ways the honoured people use to walk on.

5 The honoured one by the great god, the honoured one by Anubis, the overseer of the granite *Nb-sn*

6 ('s son) the inspector of the priests of Bastet[g] and overseer of the granite, the honoured *Nb-sn.*

7 The inspector of the priests of Bastet[h] *Nb-sn.*

8 The honoured one by the great god[i]

9 *Nb-sn.*

10 - 12 [...].

Comments:

a) A scratch runs across the stela. The group *sḫ-nṯr* is mostly destroyed by this scratch; solely a part of the sign is perceptible.

b) Anubis bears the well known epithet "Lord of a good burial"; the hieroglyph (*nb*) is missing but should be inserted here. The word *ḳrs.t* "burial" is determined by , here written , and, as second determinative, by which is common in Middle Kingdom for the word *ḳrsw* "coffin" (Wb V 65); to determine *ḳrs.t* this sign - according to WbZ - is attested only in hieratic script.

c) Osiris bears the epithet *ḫntj Ḏdw* "the one in front of Busiris", "the first of Busiris". This epithet is well known from other texts of the 5th Dynasty. The pillar is destroyed by the above mentioned scratch.

d) The determinative of *w3g*, most probably, is nearly illigible.

e) The group (*skr*) is mostly destroyed (by force in ancient time?).

f) The scratch destroyed the determinative of Osiris.

g) The title should be read *sḥḏ ḥmw nṯr n B3s.t.t* "inspector of the priests of Bastet". The scratch goes through the name of the goddess; therefore it is unclear if Bastet was written (as in line 7) or without the determinative.

h) The beginning of this line is mostly gone because of the bad quality of the limestone. Compared with line 6 it seems to be clear that *B3s.t.t* was not preceeded by a further title. The name of the goddess bears the determinative of the cat sitting on a throne (as in stela no. 397), but holding a staff here.

i) *Jm3ḫw ḫr nṯr ꜥ3* seems to be the correct reading. Line 8 is mostly destroyed; the connection between the traces of signs and words is restored according to the formula of these offering texts. The name *Nb-sn* mentioned here should be the one of the father who bears the same name as the possessor of this stela.

The possessor of the stela no. 163 is named *Nb-sn*; he bears the titles "inspector of the priests of Bastet", and "overseer of the granite" (i.e. overseer of the producers of stone vessels). Most probably he is the son of *Nb-sn*, the son of *Nj-B3s.t.t*, an "overseer of the granite", too, to whom belongs the stela no. 162. Being the inspector of the priests of the goddess Bastet he was one of the most influential persons of Bubastis during his lifetime.

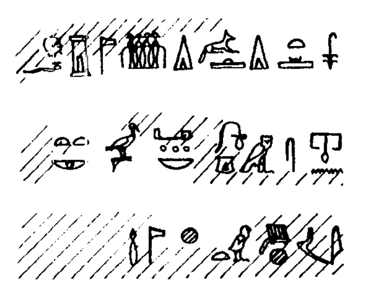
4.4.2. Funerary Stelae of Tomb 4

4.4.2.1. Funerary Stela No. 258 (drawing 17; fig. 72, 73)

This stela was walled up in the northern niche of the eastwall, with the decorated surface facing the tomb wall (fig. 72). The upper part of the stela bearing two horizontal lines is well preserved. The lower part with the 3rd line is in a bad condition; the surface layer is crumbled off and only traces of the hieroglyphs are left (fig. 73). Obviously this stela does not show any hints for the existence of depicted figures of the deceased as known from other stelae found in Tell Basta.

Dimension of the stela: 39.5 x 29 cm

Inscription:



Translation:

1 A boon which the king gives, a boon which is given to Anubis in front of the divine hall, who is upon his mountain.[a]

2 An invocation offering for her on the *w3g*-feast, on the Thot-feast.[b]

3 The honoured one by the great god ...[c]

Comments:

a) The normal epithet of Anubis "who is upon his mountain" (*tpj ḏw.t*) seems to be probable though only the lower part of the hieroglyph and the are clearly visible.

b) Behind of the determinative of the Thot-feast there is no space for another name of a feast; only a single small and tall hieroglyph could have been written there. The surface of the stone at the end of the 2nd line is in such a bad condition that it seems to be impossible to decide which sign should be inserted here.

c) The name of the woman to which this stela belongs is destroyed. The two traces of hieroglyphs can not be completed to any of well known names of women during the Old Kingdom.

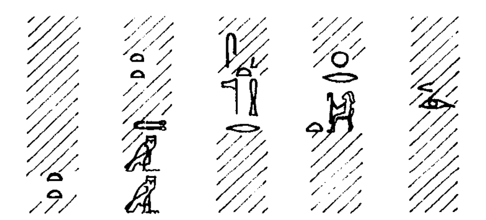
According to the text this stela belongs to a woman; *prj.t-ḫrw-n.s* as well as *jm3ḫw.t* are clear visible. Therefore tomb no. 4 is to be taken as a family tomb, for the following unnumbered stela seems to be that of a male person according to the depicted figure of a man holding a staff.

4.4.2.2. Unnumbered Stela of Tomb 4 (drawing 18; fig. 74)

This stela was walled up in the southern niche of the eastwall, with the decorated surface facing the tomb wall. It is in an extremly bad state of preservation. The surface of the lime-stone is very mellow and partly powdered. Considerable parts of the surface have crumbled away or are destroyed by fire (many incrustations of charcoal suggest this).

The stela with a dimension of 21 x 38 cm bears five vertical lines running from the left to the right. On the left part there are traces of a depiction of male figure holding a staff, looking to the right. The inscription accompanying this figure is written in the usual way from the right to the left. By the bad condition of the stela it is impossible to decide if the vertical lines in front of this figure extended to the lower border of the stela.

The preserved remains of hierolgyphs show the following groups:



Possibly the inscription began with an offering formula ending with the name of the goddess Bastet to which belong the at the beginning of the 2nd line. The next line shows the title of the possessor of the stela: *ḥm-nṯr B3s.t.t* "priest of Bastet". According to the formula the 4th line should contain *jm3ḫw ḫr B3s.t.t* ("the honoured one by Bastet") and the 5th one the name of this person. A certain reading in case of the other visible signs is not possible.

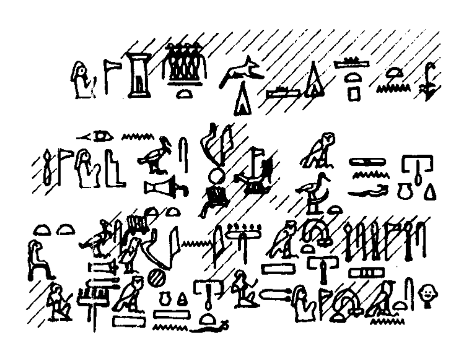
4.4.3. Funerary Stelae of Tomb 17

4.4.3.1. Funerary Stela No. 397 (drawing 19; fig. 75, 76)

This stela was walled up in the northern niche of the eastwall, with the decorated surface facing the tomb wall (fig. 75). It is partly in a bad state of preservation, especially at the beginning of the inscription which consists of three horizontal lines with bordermarkings. Remains of a further line are visible above the first one (fig. 76). The last line is to be taken as a doubled one. It is uncertain if there was a representation of the deceased on the right side of the inscription as on the other stelae of Tell Basta because the part in question is fully destroyed.

Dimension of the stela: 62.5 x 42 cm

Inscription:



Translation:

1 A boon which the king gives, a boon which is given to Anubis in front of the divine hall[a], and [a boon which is given to].

2 Osiris, the great god.[b] An invocation offering for him for the Thot-feast and the Sokaris-feast.[c] The honoured *Nj-B3s.t.t* ('s son),

3 The overseer of the priests, the supervisor of the seal of the treasury, over the secrets of the divine seal[d] *Mšṯ*. For the honoured by *B3s.t.t*[e] *Mšṯ*[f], an invocation offering for him.

Comments:

a) The god mentioned here is obviously *Jnpw ḫntj sḥ-nṯr*, "Anubis in front of the divine hall". The socle of the bark on which the canine is sitting as well as the upper part of *ḫntj* and *sḥ-nṯr* are destroyed. Below the sign *ḫntj* possibly the letter *n* was written, but as a horizontal line only, not in the normal form as usually done in this inscription.

b) "Osiris, the great god" seems to be clear though only traces of the sign are visible. It is uncertain if an other epithet or a determinative was written below this hieroglyph. The name of the god Osiris is the last group of line 2, but this group must be taken as the end of line 1. The introduction of the name of the deceased by *Wsjr* looks strange, even the following *nṯr ˁ3* "great god" supports the acception that the name of the god Osiris is displaced.

c) The offerings are to be given on the occasion of the feast of Sokaris. The name of this feast is written by a sign which shows the bark of Sokaris on its socle. On the bark the flag of gods is mounted. This form of this god's bark is similar to that which is published by Naville (Totenbuch I, pl. 31): here a shrine with the Sokaris-falcon stands in the bark; compare the signs with those of the Palermo Stone, too. In the Pyramid Texts the name of Sokaris bears - if at all - the determinative / . An other interpretation of the group is possible. In this case the falcon is not to be taken as Sokaris but as *jmn.t.t* "the west", synonymous with the netherworld. A similar writing is attested on the funerary stela Turin no. 49 (Dyn. 11): According to the preserved traces *jmn.t.t* could be determined by . But this sign can be interpreted as *ḫr.t-nṯr* "netherworld". This phrase is hitherto not attested (according to WbZ); merely *prj-ḫrw m ḫr.t-nṯr* is known since Old Kingdom. In any case the reading of this passage is uncertain because the bad condition of the stone.

d) The reading of this title is unclear. Normally the group *ḥrj-sšt3* is followed by the name of a god or of an institution. The preserved remains of hieroglyphs could be interpreted as (compare line 2). A title *ḥrj-sšt3 n sḏ3.t nṯr* "the one who is over the secrets of the divine seal" seems to be possible.

e) The name of the goddess Bastet bears as deteminative a cat sitting on a throne. Between *jm3ḫw* and *B3s.t.t* [hieroglyph] is to be inserted.

f) It is unclear if an epithet as *m3ᶜ ḫrw* or a determinative had followed the name *Msṯ*.

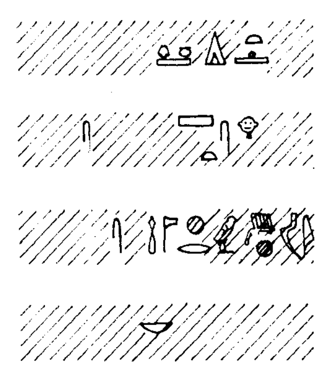
The owner of this stela is named *Mšṯ*, a name which is attested for Dynasties 5 and 6. This name bears the determinative [hieroglyph] here written [hieroglyph]. The father of *Mšṯ* is *Nj-B3s.t.t* who is mentioned on the stela no. 162 as the father of *Nb-sn*, too. *Mšṯ* and *Nb-sn* therefore are to be taken as being brothers, and *Mšṯ* as an uncle of *Nb-sn*, the owner of stela no. 163, too.

4.4.3.2. Unnumbered Stela of Tomb 17 (drawing 20)

This stela was walled up in the southern niche of the eastwall, with the decorated surface facing the tomb wall. It is in an extremly bad state of preservation.The limestone is very mellow and the surface is partly powdered, caused mainly by the ground water. Considerable parts of the surface are splintered. The stela bears traces of an inscription consisting of four horizontal lines sunk and painted in turquoise. On the left side remains of a depiction of a woman can be maked out.

Dimension of the stela: 48 x 45 cm

The traces of the inscription allow to read the following groups:



Certainly the text begins with the *ḥtp-dj-nsw.t* - formula followed by *prj.t-ḫrw*: "a boon which the king gives, an invocation offering". But it is unclear if this offering should have been given to a man or to a woman because neither *n .f* ("for him") nor *n . s* ("for her") is visible. The 2nd line shows titles similar to those of *Mšṯ*, the owner of the other stela of tomb 17: *ḥrj sšt3* "he who is over the secrets" and - at the end of the line- possibly *shḏ ḥmw nṯr* "inspector of the priests". The 3rd line begins with *jm3ḫw ... ḫr nṯr ᶜ3* "the

honoured one by the great god". After a lacuna of one group an *s* follows which could belong either to an epithet of *ntr* ᶜ*3* "great god" or to another title of the deceased. In this case the title can be taken as *ḥrj-sšt3* "Who is over the secrets". A vertical sign follows this group which cannot be interpreted just as the small remain in line 4 where the name of the deceased must have been written.

4.4.4. Evaluation

Three of the above-presented funerary stelae are connected closely by their inscriptions and by the persons mentioned in it. Most probably they were made for the members of only one family who had got an important influence on Bubastis. The relative large dimensions of the respective tombs bear witness to it, too. A man named *Nj-B3s.t.t* is the most ancient recorded member of this family. Unfortunately no funerary stela is existing which gives us the possibility to relate one of the tombs in the so-called Western Cemetery to him. This person had got two sons; one of them - named *Mšṯ* - bears the titles "overseer of the priests, supervisor of the seal of the treasury, the one who is over the secrets of the divine seal", the other one - named *Nb-sn* - was "overseer of the granite". The latter left a son with the same name, who had got a similar priestrank like his uncle *Mšṯ*. He was an "inspector of the priests of Bastet" and also the bearer of the fatherly rank "overseer of the granite".

There are no reference points in all of the funerary stelae which would date the documents absolutely. By the archaeological findings and by the warrantable assumption that the funerary stelae are belonging to the tombs where they were excavated we can state without any doubt that these tombs were constructed prior to the New Kingdom. All the buildings from this time (e.g. the residential area of villa-like houses and the tombs of Hori I and Hori II) are situated on a deposit which is visible as a stratum in the profiles. The excavated tombs were covered by the same stratum formerly. This area of the cemetery - a further part must be located below the mentioned buildings from the New Kingdom still existing - had been used as a refuse place when the cemetry itself left open over a long time; that would explain the high amount of ash, potsherds and animal bones in this stratum. Another indication to the dating in the Old Kingdom is given by the bricks: in difference to the use of burnt bricks meagerd with potsherds in the New Kingdom buildings they are always unburnt and nearly free from potsherds. Therefore the lowest tombs must be dated into the period from the Old to the Middle Kingdom.

A more exact dating is possible on the basis of stylistical and orthographical details in the inscriptions of the funerary stelae. The offering formula used in the texts are in accordance with the formula of the Old Kingdom and the First Intermediate Period collected by W. Barta. Since the end of the 5th Dynastie it was custom to introduce each name of a god with an own (*dj*) or (*ḥtp*) resp. with the whole *ḥtp-dj-nsw.t* - formula. The mentioned gods are only Anubis (with the epitheta *ḫntj sḥ-nṯr, jmj wt, nb t3-ḏsr* and *nb krs.t nfr.t*), Osiris (with the epitheton *ḫntj Ḏdw* and not *nb Ḏdw* like it was normally during the 6th to 8th Dynasties) and *nṯr* ^{c}*3* which could be used also as synonym for Osiris. Further gods - in the respective stelae only Bastet - are connected with the mentioning of the tomb's owner as *jm3ḫw ḫr* god NN recorded also since the 5th Dynasty.

The hieroglyphic writing of Bastet in the above-mentioned three funerary stelae is a further indication for dating. The writing (with and without determination) is recorded as normal writing according to the references of the Wörterbuch (WbZ) in the Pyramid Texts only. Other variants of similar writings could be found sporadically in documents from the Old Kingdom (Medum, tomb of *Nfr-m3*^{c}*.t*, 3rd Dyn.; statue of Chephren no. 11, Cairo Museum; Mariette, Mastaba A 1, 3rd Dyn.) and the Middle Kingdom (P. Lacau, Rec. Trav. 27, 1905, 229; on a statue in Mitrahine, according to a copy of H. Brugsch of 1853). This writing is used more frequently since the Late Egyptian Period.

By all these reasons it seems probably to date these three funerary stelae in the second half of the 5th resp. in the early 6th Dynasty; just in this time there were several temples constructed in Bubastis. The latest dating would be the First Intermediate Period according to some epigraphical abnormalities as the writing of and the irregular direction of writing resp. order of lines on these and the other funerary stelae.

The investigation of the textual material confirms the hypothesis of a family cemetery used over some generations as it was concluded from the architectural findings. This result corresponds with similar observations in other tomb complexes of Tell Basta.

4.5. The Burials

4.5.1. General Remarks

Although the burials were found in an undisturbed position in any case, the skeletons were badly preserved. Therefore, it was not possible to save the skeletons for anthropological examinations. In any experiments to stabilize the skeleton's remnants by chemicals, we were without success. The varying humidity of the soil took out all organic hornlike substances (e.g. collagen) of the bones; the skeletons had laid partly under the ground-water level especially during the inundation. Caused by the calcareous soil, the anorganic bones' ingredients like lime were essentially preserved. The bones lost their elasticity and got brittle through this chemical process. Remains of material were not noticed through which a mummification could be attested.

The deceaseds were wrapped in mats of reed or buried in sarcophagi of such material or of wood. In general, the reed was found completely destroyed and could noticed as horizontal and vertical strata of white powder only. In all probability, we can speak of a reed's sarcophagus if the vertical stratum forms a rectangular square in the planum, which was not irregular and not situated next to the bones as it happend in case of mats' wrapping. In case of two burials in tomb no. 17 and in case of three burials in tomb no. 18, remnants of wooden coffins were noticed only as brown vertical strata forming a rectangular square in the planum, too.

The outer shaping and designing of the sarcophagi and of the mats, too, is unclear. The latter as well as the sarcophagi seems to be platered and/or coloured sometimes. The use of any kind of anthropoid coffins including a special preparation to cover the head is improbable by the findings.The wrappings never reproduced the body form directly. They were enlarged to all sides, especially to head and feet. In case of the burials using sarcophagi, often the bones were free from any kind of wrapping, colour or plaster which was not belonging to the sarcophagi itself.

In case of wrapping only, the mats were fixed by a layer of special mud bricks. On principle, such a brick layer formed the bottom of the burial place of wrapped skeletons. These bricks had a normal size (30 x 15 cm) with a reduced thickness of 2 cm only. They

overlapped the mats on the western longitudinal side of the burial place with about 5-7 cm. Therefore, here, the vertical stratum of the reed's mat is straight-lined relatively in the planum. On the contrary, the end of the mats was curved on its eastern longitudinal side. A layer of fine and light Gezira gravel covered the uppermost and very thin brick layer of the burial place, on principle. It was situated between the bricks and the lower layer of the mats resp. the bottom of the sarcophagi, and had a thickness of about 2-10 cm. These covers as well as the special brick layer were put on the burial places in connection with the burial itself; in case of the unused burial places, both were not noticed.

It is remarkable that in case of all burials in the so-called Western Cemetery, the deads were supplied poorly with goods, to be used in the next life. In few cases only, small pots were unearthed; jewellery, like it was discovered several times in tombs of the late 6th Dynasty in the so-called Eastern Cemetery, never were found. Tomb-robbery could be excluded as a reason for this finding: in comparison with the plundered tombs resp. tombs' chambers of the so-called Eastern Cemetery dated in the 6th Dynasty or in the First Intermediate Period, we still not have any proof of robbery earlier than the First Intermediate Period. But in this time, the so-called Western Cemetery was covered and forgotten already. Such findings were not noticed which indicate a robbery like a shaft, here too. At least, the undisturbed position of the skeletons argues against any plunder in ancient times. In all, the poor supplying with funerary gifts must to be interpreted as a special characteristic trait of the burial customs at Bubastis when the so-called Western Cemetery was in function. It is not possible to infer from this fact that the tombs' owner were poorly caused by their belonging to a lower social stratum. Not only the size of the tombs (in view of the expenditure of work) argues against it, but also the inscriptions of the funerary stelae.

It must taken into account in connection with the burial customs that the tombs have a chamber-like extension at their northern narrow sides, in general. These annexes were situated in front of the walled up openings of the arched passages of the tombs (cf. fig. 65), and their purpose is still unclear. A small square is surrounded by a wall of a half brick width; the preserved height differs. In case of tomb 12, the two annexes at the northern narrow side were completely preserved; they were closed at the top by a false vault which had had a circular hole in its centre (cf. fig. 84). These and the other remains of the chamber-like extensions also were filled with rubbish in their inner part, absolutely. A more or less thin layer of light Gezira gravel was noticed at the bottom of each annex. Beneath this stratum in case of tombs no. 4 and 18, the findings indicated a change in the contour of the

annexes. First they were constructed semicircular, later than removed and rebuilt in the mentioned rectangular form. Whereas the foundations of the annexes of tomb 18 were completely removed - the former shape was indicated by a semicircular light-brown band-like discolouration of the light-yellow virgin soil in a width of half a brick -, the semi-circular foundation layer of tomb no. 4 was partly covered by the new construction in the rectangular form.

Inside the annexes, finds like pots or other remains of offerings were never unearthed. Therefore, it is not possible to interpret these extensions as offering places which must have been existed in case of any tomb, and which was discovered only once at the eastern outside of the elder semicircular annex of tomb no. 4: hundreds of small potsherds are concentrated in a small shaft-like circular deepening, still in situ.

The custom to offer complete destroyed pottery was also noticed in the area of the so-called Eastern Cemetry. Here, real rectangular shafts inside the tomb's construction were used. In contrast to the tombs of the so-called Western Cemetery, special deposit chambers of grave-goods for the dead were found, here. In every respect, it must be stated that the burial customs of both cemetries differs substantially. The main tomb of the so-called Eastern Cemetery is exact dated in the late 6th Dynasty through two inscribed limestone chambers. In respect of the above mentioned dating of the so-called Western Cemetery, it is obvious to limit it to the second half of the 5th Dynasty.

4.5.2. Catalogue

The given measurements of the tombs are these of the superstructure (for detailed informations cf. p. 50 - 4.3.2. Measurement Lists); the square dimension of the annex with the thickness of its wall is given on second position.

Tomb 1

(Type 2; cf. drawing 9; fig. 66, 69, 77, 78; cf. fig. 63, 79)

Two skeletons in reed coffins inside the arched passage; one behind the other on the longitudinal axis, the burial places were covered by light yellow Gezira sand.

Measurements: L. 500 cm, W. 300 cm, H. 150 cm;
L. 180 cm, W. 195 cm, Th. 15 cm.

Positions: II c (N.), V c (S.).

Finds: Two funerary stelae (Reg. no. 162, 163, cf. fig. 70, 71);
four pots (Reg. no. 171.1-4, cf. fig. 113).

Tomb 2

(Type 5; cf. drawing 13; fig. 79; cf. fig. 63)

One skeleton in a reed coffin inside the tomb on the paving-bricks; any special preparation of the burial place was not noticed; no remains of an annex.

Measurements: L. 270 cm, W. 175 cm, H. 50 cm.

Position: I b.

Tomb 3

(Type 3B; cf. drawing 11; fig. 80-83)

Two skeletons in plastered and yellow painted reed coffins inside the arched passage; one behind the other on the longitudinal axis; the burial places were covered by light yellow Gezira sand; the northern burial place contained a strewing of light yellowish and yellow ocher under the coffin; the southern coffin was covered by a strewing of yellow ocher, too.

Measurements: L. 480 cm, W. 275 cm, H. 150 cm;
L. 165 cm, W. 120 cm, Th. 18 cm.

Positions: II h (N.), II k (S.).

Finds: In the area of the tomb were found an amulet (Reg. Nr. 14; cf. fig.114) and several kinds of beads (Reg. Nr. 358, cf. fig.170).

Tomb 4

(Type 3A; cf. drawing 10, 21, 22; cf. fig. 72, 84)

Two burials inside the arched passage; one behind the other on the longitudinal axis; the burial places were covered by light yellow Gezira sand; the northern skeleton laid in a reed coffin which was strewed with yellow ocher; the southern skeleton was wrapped in mats of reed; a strewing of yellow ocher was noticed above it, too.

Measurements: L. 550 cm, W. 310 cm, H. 180 cm;
1st construction: diameter 145 cm;
2nd construction: L. 45 cm, W. 145 cm.

Positions: II k (N.), II g (S.).

Finds: Two funerary stelae (Reg. no. 285, cf. fig. 73; one stela is unregistered, cf. fig. 74).

Tomb 5

(Type 6; fig. 85, 86)

One skeleton wrapped in unpainted mats of reed beneath the tomb's construction and in the west of its longitudinal axis; any special preparation of the burial pit was not noticed; no remains of an annex.

Measurements: L. 230 cm, W. 150 cm, H. 60 cm.

Position: V d.

Tomb 6

(Type 6; cf. drawing 6, 14)

One skeleton wrapped in unpainted mats of reed beneath the tomb's construction and in the west of its longitudinal axis; any special preparation of the burial pit was not noticed; no remains of an annex.

Measurements: L. 160 cm, W. 120 cm, H. 45 cm.

Position: V d.

Tomb 7

(Type 3)

One skeleton in a reed coffin inside the arched passage; on the longitudinal axis; the burial place was covered by light yellow Gezira sand; certain remains of an annex were not noticed (the respective area is covered by tomb no. 6 which could had been the annex of tomb no. 7 formerly).

Measurements: L. 430 cm, W. 320 cm, H. 195 cm.

Position: II i.

Tomb 8

(Type 2; drawing 23)

Two skeletons in plastered reed coffins inside the arched passage; one behind the other on

the longitudinal axis, the burial places were covered by nearly white Gezira sand. The northern narrow side is connected with the southern one of tomb no. 7; therefore, the annex of tomb no. 8 was removed, its foundation layer were noticed only as a band-like discolouration running in north-south resp. in west-east direction in a width of about half a brick.

Measurements: L. 500 cm, W. 300 cm, H. 120 cm;

L. c. 180 cm; W. c. 140 cm; Th. c. 15 cm.

Positions: II h (N.), II c (S.).

Finds: One pot near the feet of the southern skeleton (Reg. no. 265, cf. fig. 141).

Tomb 9

(Type 6; fig. 87)

One skeleton in a reed coffin beneath the tomb's construction on its longitudinal axis; any special preparation of the burial place was not noticed; no remains of an annex (the respective area is covered by the elder tomb no. 8).

Measurements: L. 230 cm, W. 195 cm, H. 70 cm.

Position: II k.

Tomb 10

(Type 4; drawing 12, 24; fig. 88)

One skeleton wrapped in mats of reed inside the arched passage on the longitudinal axis; the burial place was covered by yellow Gezira sand; no remains of an annex.

Measurements: L. 270 cm, W. 250 cm, H. 105 cm.

Position: II f.

Tomb 11

(Type 4)

One skeleton wrapped in mats of reed inside the arched passage on the longitudinal axis; the burial place was covered by light-yellow Gezira sand; no remains of an annex (the respective area is covered by tomb no. 10).

Measurements: L. 285 cm, W. 210 cm, H. 110 cm.

Position: II i.

Tomb 12

(Special type of group 1; drawing 25; cf. fig. 64, 84)

Two skeletons in reed coffins, each in an own passage west resp. east of the longitudinal axis of the tomb. The burial place in the western passage was covered by a layer of reddish soil; the skeleton laid in an unpainted and unplastered reed coffin. The burial place in the eastern passage was covered by yellow Gezira sand on a layer of reddish soil mixed with different colours; the skeleton laid in a reed coffin plastered, painted and covered by a strewing of dark yellow ocher.

Measurements: L. 450 cm, W. 420 cm, H. 160 cm;
L. 120 cm, W. 160 cm (W.) resp. 115 cm (E.), Th. 15 cm,
Th. of its partition wall 35 cm, H. 130 cm.

Measurements of the sarcophagi: L. 170 cm, W. 60 cm (W.);
L. 220 cm, W. 60 cm (E.).

Positions: V a (W.), I d (E.).

Tomb 13

(Type 5; fig. 89)

One skeleton in a reed coffin inside the tomb on the paving-bricks; any special preparation of the burial place was not noticed; no remains of an annex.

Measurements: L. 310 cm, W. 200 cm, H. 80 cm.

Position: II h.

Tomb 14

(Type 4; fig. 90; cf. fig. 84)

One skeleton wrapped in mats of reed inside the arched passage on the longitudinal axis; the burial place was covered by yellow Gezira sand; no remains of an annex.

Measurements: L. 225 cm, W. 270 cm, H. 90 cm.

Position: II f.

Tomb 15

(Type 1; cf. drawing 5; fig. 91)

Two skeletons in reed coffins, each in an own passage west resp. east of the longitudinal axis of the tomb. One further burial place was empty in each passage. The burial places in one passage lay one behind the other on its longitudinal axis. In case of the western passage, the occupied southern burial place was covered by a layer of light yellow Gezira sand above the tomb's foundation layer of mud bricks (37 x 16 x 8 cm); the skeleton laid in a plastered and reddish-brown painted reed coffin. In case of the eastern passage, the occupied northern burial place was covered by yellow Gezira sand, too. The skeleton laid in a reed coffin unplastered, unpainted, but covered by a strewing of dark yellow ocher, and placed on four small limestone blocks. The first one beneath the head region, the second, third and fourth one beneath the regions of the pelvis, the legs and the feet, respectively.

Measurements: L. 585 cm, W. 490 cm, H. 295 cm;
L. 190 cm, W. 120 cm (W.) resp. 150 cm (E.), Th. 30 cm (W.) resp. 45 cm (E.), Th. of its partition wall 35 cm.

Positions: II d (W.), I b (E.).

Finds: On the legs of the skeleton in the western passage a mirror of copper (Reg. Nr. 393, cf. fig. 171).

Tomb 16

(Type 5; fig. 92)

One skeleton in a reed coffin inside the tomb on the paving-bricks; any special preparation of the burial place was not noticed; no remains of an annex.

Measurements: L. 270 cm, W. 190 cm, H. 110 cm.

Position: II c.

Tomb 17

(Type 1B; drawing 8; fig. 62, 67, 75, 93)

Three skeletons buried in coffins, two in the western passage and one in the eastern passage of the longitudinal axis of the tomb; in the south of the eastern passage, one further burial place was empty; the burial places in each passage lay one behind the other on its longitudinal axis; certain remains of an annex were not noticed, cf. p. 59.

In case of the western passage, the northern burial place was covered by a layer of light yellow Gezira sand; the skeleton laid in a reed coffin; small black spots were noticed on the bones. Any special preparation of the southern burial place was not noticed; the skeleton wrapped in mats of reed laid inside of wooden sarcophagus.

In case of the eastern passage, the northern burial place was covered by a layer of light yellow Gezira sand; the skeleton wrapped in mats of reed laid inside of a wooden sarcophagus; the southern burial place was unoccupied but covered by yellow Gezira sand.

Measurements: L. 715 cm, W. 580 cm, H. 270 cm.

Positions: II h (W.-N.), II i (W.-S.), II c (E.-N.).

Finds: Two funerary stelae (Reg. no. 397, cf. fig. 76; one stela is unregistered); few animal bones inside the consoles for the stelae, unregistered.

Tomb 18

(Type 1A; drawing 7; fig. 65, 68, 94 - 100)

Five burials, one in each of the two western passages, one in the southern and two in the northern passage east of the longitudinal axis of the tomb; the two burials in the latter laid one behind the other on its longitudinal axis; the northern burial used the inner part of the north-eastern annex (2nd construction).

In case of the two western passages which laid one behind the other and were seperated by a partition wall with a thickness of nearly 70 cm, the northern burial place was covered by a layer of yellow Gezira sand; the skeleton laid in a wodden coffin and was wrapped in mats of reed; the southern burial place was covered by a layer of nearly white Gezira sand; the skeleton laid in a wooden coffin and was wrapped in mats of reed, too.

In case of the two eastern passages which laid one behind the other and were separated by the same partition wall, the northern burial place was covered by a layer of light yellow Gezira sand; the skeleton laid in a reed coffin; north of it a further skeleton wrapped in mats of reed, without a real burial place; the southern burial place was covered by nearly white Gezira sand; the skeleton was wrapped in mats of reed, too.

Measurements: L. 665 cm, W. 460 cm, H. 130 cm;
L. 65 cm, W. 225 cm (E. annex, 2nd. constr.),
diameter of 1st construction 135 cm (W. annex).

Positions: IV a (W.-N.), II e (W.-S.), V d (E.-N.N.), V d (E.-N.S.; disturbed), II i (E.-S.)

Finds: One pot beside the skull of W.-N. burial, completely destroyed, mostly pulverized, unregistered.

Tomb 19

(Type 6; fig. 101, 102)

One skeleton wrapped in mats of reed beneath the tomb's construction and in the west of its longitudinal axis; any special preparation of the burial pit was not noticed; no remains of an annex.

Measurements: L. 230 cm, W. 120 cm, H. 60 cm.

Position: V d.

Tomb 20

(Type 5; cf. fig. 94)

One skeleton in a reed coffin inside the tomb on the paving-bricks; any special preparation of the burial place was not noticed; no remains of an annex.

Measurements: L. 270 cm, W. 170 cm, H. 90 cm.

Position: I b.

4.5.3. Evaluation

The 32 burials are dispersed on following positions:

position I b - three burials; position I d - one burial;

position II c - four burials; position II d - one burial; position II e - one burial; position II f - two burials; position II g - one burial; position II h - four burials, position II i - four burials; position II k - three burials;

position IV a - one burial;

position V a - one burial; position V c - one burial; position V d - five burials.

The multifarious manners of the burials argues for a relative individualism in the burial custom. But ultimately, it could be reduced down to three main types:

1. the extended supine position with four burials;

2. the contracted supine position with eight burials;

3. the more or less contracted left side position with twenty burials.

Neither in respect of the main types nor with references to the multifarious manners of the burials, any evolution could be derived from it. In case of multiple burials in one tomb, the skeletons' positions differ, on principle. The same statement must be given in respect of the mentioned main types except the two burials of tomb no. 4 (position II k and II g). Caused by the archaeological findigs, it seems to be sure that the southern burial place of tombs with more than one burial place was occupied at first. The third main type predominates under this condition. This allows the conclusion that the more or less contracted position was the common one. The noticed differences could result not only from the more or less long interval between each burial. According the range number to the depth of the tombs' level (cf. p.52) on such assumption, it should be possible to find out any connection between the burials of the respective tombs.

The tombs no. 18 and 17 were constructed in the same time nearly, and the tomb no. 1 is connected with tomb no. 17 by the owners' brotherhood. Outgoing from the generational sequence, the tomb no. 15 must be constructed 10-20 years later, just the time when the tomb no. 4 had been built, too. In case of tombs no. 4 and 3, a similar connection should be assumed. Therefore, the times of occupancy of all respective burial places could be reduced to a period of two generations; in the case of tombs no. 1, 4, and 17 the burial places must have been occupied during one and the same generation. According to the archaeological finding in case of the north-western passage of tomb no. 18, it could be-lieved that the southern burial place in a passage was occupied at first. A similar assumption could be marked in the question which passage of more than one was used for a burial at first. Here, by the findings in case of tomb 17, it seems to be sure that it was the western one. Therefore, the most closest connections are between the southern resp. south-western burial places of the tombs no. 1, 17, and 18. In these cases, skeletons' positions are noticed as follows:

tomb no. 18 - II e (S.-W.), II i (S.-E.), IV a (N.-W.), V d (N.-E., S.) V d (N.-E., N.);

tomb no. 17 - II i (S.-W.), II h (N.-W.), S.-E. unoccupied, II c (N.-E.);

tomb no. 1 - V c (S.), II c (N.);

tomb no. 4 - II g (S.), II k (N.);

tomb no. 3 - II k (S.), II h (S.);

tomb no. 15 - II d (S.-W.), S.-E. and N.-W. unoccupied, I b (N.-E.).

In case of these 16 burials, the proof of 11 different positions shows obviously that there was an important distribution among it without any significance to the real burial custom. On the other hand, the strewing of ocher seems to have importance to the burial custom. It was noticed in case of the burials of tombs no. 3 and 4, and in case of the eastern burials of tombs no. 12 and 15, too. Except the tomb no. 12, this is in accordance with the mentioned relative contemporaneity of the burials of these tombs, and tomb no. 12 can be closely connected with this group thereby. The key for the interpretation of such a strewing of ocher was given by a burial of the so-called Eastern Cemetery. Here, the floor of a limestone burial chamber was covered by such a strewing of ocher, too, but the lumps of ocher were strongly mixed with gold leaf. Therefore, the ocher can be interpreted as a substitute or an imitation of gold.

To date the burials of the so-called Western Cemetery in the 2nd half of the 5th Dynasty corresponds with the contemporary material dug out by earlier excavations in the Delta region. In this time it was the normal custom to bury the deads in a contracted position looking at the east, i.e. the location of the sunrise and of the offering place, too. In this connection, it must be stated once more that a real development of the burial position from an extreme contraction into an extended supine position is not attestable by the archaeolgical findings, just like it was find out by Junker in case of the burials in the Giza Necropolis. The more or less contracted position which was continued in use since Predynastic times was displaced by the burial position fully extended from the beginning of the 4th Dynasty. The old traditional custom came in use once more in the 5th and 6th Dynasty. During the latter one, it was finally displaced by the fully extended position of the deads. Therefore, in the so-called Family Tomb close to the east by the tombs of the so-called Western Cemetery and dated to the 4th Dynasty, the unearthed skeletons feature the contracted as well as the extended position; the main burials found in shaft-like burial chambers had the extended position. Correspondingly, later burials showed the contracted position.

The change of the burial position was explained by H. Kees as follows: "Platzbeschränkung und Arbeitserspamis fiel bei den primitiven Werkzeugen, mit denen man die Grube ... ausschachten mußte, wesentlich ins Gewicht. Daher konnte die Hockerlage im Zusammen-

hang mit der Möglichkeit der Erstellung großer Steinsärge zuerst in den Königsgräbern des Alten Reiches bei Memphis (seit Snefru) aufgelöst werden, und diese Sitte griff auf die Provinzgräber über, sobald man dort, ebenfalls dank regerer Handelsverbindungen, die Möglichkeit zur Beschaffung geeigneten Holzes für Särge erhielt... Wiederum sah man sich bei Verarmung der vom Hof verlassenen Königsnekropolen veranlaßt, dort aus Ersparnisgründen die Leiche in der alten Hockerstellung, oft sogar ohne Sarg, zu bestatten. Das läßt sich in Gise bereits in den Anlagen der 5./6. Dynastie, in Sakkara gegen Ende der 6. Dynastie, in der Provinz in der Zeit des Zusammenbruches des Alten Reiches, überall als untrügliches Zeichen der Not, beobachten" (H. Kees, Totenglauben und Jenseitsvorstellungen der Alten Ägypter, Berlin 1977, S. 14 f.).

This explanation is not in accordance with the burial-findings in the so-called Western Cemetery where only the secondary burials were brought into the tombs' constructions without a real big expense. The first burials showed the more or less contracted position except in case of the late tombs no. 2 and 20 with single burials. In case of tombs no. 12 and 15, the burials in an extended position were found in the eastern passages which was used for secondary burials most probably. These as well as the other enlarged tombs of the so-called Western Cemetery are the eldest and most expensive one. Here, the normal burial position was the contracted one, and in case of the tombs no. 17 and 18, five skeletons were found buried in wooden sarcophagi.

Another common explanation for the change of the burial position consists in the assumption that it was caused by the practice of mummification: "The change from contracted to extended burials may well have been directly connected with the introduction of more elaborate embalming techniques, it being far easier to remove the internal organs from an extended body. In support of this theory, it is worth pointing out that the rich tombs in which extended burials first appear belonged to individuals who would have been able to afford the latest embalming processes" (A. J. Spencer, Death in Ancient Egypt, Aylesbury 1982, p. 37f.).

Also this explanation cannot be supported by any finding which was discovered at Tell Basta. There is only one burial where indefinable black spots were noticed on the bones (tomb 17, western passage, northern burial place, position II h), but in this case like in all the others, never such requirement like Canopic jars were found. In all, any acceptable solution to the respective problem based on the real findings cannot be given until now.

5. The Catalogue of Finds

To describe the different finds the following scheme is used for the first line:

- on the left the official registration number of the Antiquities Register;
- in the middle the marking of the square according to the excavation plan;
- on the right the date of the registration.

In a short statement is given the place of discovery, a description of the object including different items as material, colour, state of preservation, and dating, if possible. In the last two lines the dimension and the number of figure are noticed.

115 **E VII f 6/f 7** **13/05/1978**

In the debris; upper part of an amulet, perhaps Bastet; burnt clay; remains of white colour.

Measurement: L. 32 mm, H. 28 mm.

Photo: Fig. 103.

116 **E VII f 6/f 7** **14/05/1978**

In the debris; amulet on small base in the shape of an animal (pig ?), the tail is missing; broken; fayence.

Measurement: L. 25 mm, H. 15 mm.

Photo: Fig. 104.

117 **E VII f 6/f 7** **14/05/1978**

In the debris; figure of a cow (?),some parts (legs, tail, and horns) are missing; burnt clay.

Measurement: L. 84 mm, H. 25 mm.

Photo: Fig. 105.

118.1-3 **E VII f 6/f 7** **14/05/1978**

In the debris; three votive cups, models; one is broken and some parts are missing; burnt clay.

Measurements: 118.1 - diameter 50 mm, H. 45 mm;

118.2 - diameter 49 mm, H. 33 mm;

118.3 - diameter 46 mm, H. 42 mm.

Photo: Fig. 106.

120 **E VII f 6/f 7** **15/05/1978**

In the debris; upper part of a statue, Isis with the Horus child; fayence; New Kingdom.

Measurement: H. 33 mm, W. 20 mm.

Photo: Fig. 107.

121 **E VII f 6/f 7** **15/05/1978**

In the debris; small amulet in the shape of a woman; fayence.

Measurement: H. 15 mm, W. 15 mm.

Photo: Fig. 108.

122 **E VII f 6/f 7** **15/05/1978**

In the debris; amulet in the shape of an Udjat eye; broken, recently restored; fayence; New Kingdom.

Measurement: L. 30 mm, W. 25 mm.

Photo: Fig. 109.

128 **E VII f 6/f 7** **17/05/1978**

In the debris; part of a *kohl* - stick; broken; ivory; New Kingdom.

Measurement: L. 75 mm.

Photo: Fig. 110.

130 **E VII f 6/f 7** **18/05/1978**

In the debris; flask; broken, recently restored; clay; New Kingdom.

Measurement: Diameter of the body with the mouth 210 mm.

Photo: Fig. 111.

143 **E VII f 6/f 7** **29/05/1978**

Cover of an anthropoid coffin; broken, recently restored; burnt clay; New Kingdom.

Measurement: L. 670 mm, W. 505 mm, Th. 20 mm.

Photo: Fig. 112.

162 **E VII e 6** **2/07/1978**

In a niche on the eastern wall of tomb no. 1; stela of *Nb-sn* with offering formula; partly destroyed; limestone; 5th/6th Dyn.; see p. 83-85.

Measurement: L. 775 mm, W. 335 mm.

Photo: Fig. 70 (cf. drawing 15).

163 **E VII e 6** **2/07/1978**

In a niche on the eastern wall of tomb no. 1; stela of *Nb-sn* with offering formula; broken, some parts are missing, recently restored; limestone; 5th/6th Dyn.; see p. 85-88.

Measurement: L. 670 mm, W. 265 mm.

Photo: Fig. 71 (cf. drawing 16).

171.1-4 **E VII e 6** **12/07/1978**

In the four corners of tomb no. 1; four pots in the shape of a flower pot, handmade; badly burnt clay; the bottoms of 171.2-4 show an irregular hole of c. 10 mm in diameter; 5th/6th Dyn.

Measurements: 171.1 - diameter 260 mm, H. 220 mm;
171.2 - diameter 270 mm, H. 220 mm;
171.3 - diameter 270 mm, H. 220 mm;
171.4 - diameter 260 mm, H. 220 mm.

Photo: Fig. 113.

214 **E VII e 6** **27/11/1978**

In the area of tomb no. 3; amulet, showing the head of a woman with two horns and the sun disc (Hathor ?); only the upper part is preserved and bears a hole; fayence.

Measurement: L. 18 mm, W. 14 mm, Th. 10 mm.

Photo: Fig. 114.

215 **E VII e 6** **29/11/1978**

In the debris; cylindrical seal with four lines showing figures of animals; burnt clay, dark grey.

Measurement: Diameter 21 mm, L. 34 mm.

Photo: Fig. 115.

216 **E VII e 6** **4/12/1978**

In the debris; bioconical bead bearing a conical hole at max. diameter, originally horizontally holed; fayence; remains of light green glazure.

Measurement: Max. diameter 21 mm, min. diameter 10 mm, L. 57 mm.

Photo: Fig. 116.

220 **E VII f 6/f 7** **29/11/1978**

In the debris; pot with pointed base and rough surface; the mouth is missing, recently restored; burnt clay; Old Kingdom.

Measurement: Diameter 106 mm, H. 242 mm.

Photo: Fig. 117.

222 **E VII f 7** **5/12/1978**

Near the neck of the skeleton, burial no. 7/78; cylindrical beads of different size and two amulets, one in the shape of a ram's head, the other one in the shape of a crocodile (?); recently stringed; fayence; Middle Kingdom to Second Intermediate Period.

Measurement (ram's head): L. 10 mm, W. 13 mm, Th. 5 mm.

Photo: Fig. 118, 119.

223 **E VII g 6/g 7** **7/12/1978**

In the debris; knife; corroded, broken in two parts, recently restored; bronze.

Measurement: L. 95 mm, W. 13 mm.

Photo: Fig. 120.

224 **E VII g 7** **10/12/1978**

Around the neck of the skeleton, burial no. 10/78; small ring shaped beads and one amulet in the shape of an animal (crocodile ?); recently stringed; green fayence; Middle Kingdom to Second Intermidate Period.

Photo: Fig. 121.

225 **E VII f 6** **12/12/1978**

On the chest of the skeleton, burial no. 13/78; beads and amulets in the shape of Udjat eyes on a nearly rectangular base; recently stringed; beads: carnelian and shells, amulets: fayence; 19th Dyn. to Late Egyptian Period.

Photo: Fig. 122.

226 **E VII f 6** **14/12/1978**

In the debris; harpoon; surface completely corroded; bronze.

Measurement: L. 83 mm, W. 23 mm, diameter 12 mm.

Photo: Fig. 123.

227 **E VII f 6** **16/12/1978**

In the debris; small conical pot; the mouth is missing; red burnt clay.

Measurement: Diameter 61 mm, H. 45 mm.

Photo: Fig. 124.

228 **E VII f 6/f 7** **16/12/1978**

In the debris; small oviform pot with flat base; broken, recently restored; red burnt clay.

Measurement: Diameter 54 mm, H. 70 mm.

Photo: Fig. 125.

229 **E VII g 6** **17/12/1978**

In the debris beside the southern wall of tomb no. 18/78; pot with pointed base; broken, some parts are missing, recently restored; red burnt clay.

Measurement: Diameter 82 mm, H. 170 mm.

Photo: Fig. 126.

230 **E VII g 6** **27/12/1978**

On the chest of the skeleton in tomb no. 18/78; spherical beads; recently stringed to a necklace of 100 mm length; fayence, carnelian, and stone; late New Kingdom (?).

Photo: Fig. 127.

231 **E VII g 6** **18/12/1978**

In the debris; pot with long cylindrical neck and large mouth; recently restored; red burnt clay.

Measurement: Diameter 152 mm, H. 250 mm.

Photo: Fig. 128.

232 **E VII g 6** **21/12/1978**

Beside the skull of the seleton, burial no. 21/78; upper part of a small statue in the shape of a woman, the left arm is on the chest, the right one is missing, in the region of the wig are four holes; recently restored; burnt clay, light brown; late New Kingdom (?).

Measurement: L. 45 mm, W. 24 mm, Th. 13 mm.

Photo: Fig. 129.

233 **E VII h 6** **26/12/1978**

Set of five shabtis; see p. 135; fig. 190.

234 **E VII g 6/h 6** **26/12/1978**

In the left hand of the skeleton, burial no. 27 A/78; scarab with inscription *snd*; white fayence; late New Kingdom to Late Egyptian Period.

Measurement: L. 13 mm., W. 9 mm, H. 7 mm.

Photo: Fig. 130-133.

235 **E VII g 6/h 6** **26/12/1978**

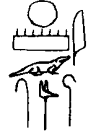


In the left hand of the skeleton, burial no. 27 B/78; scarab with inscription *Ḥr-3ḫtj m ḥb* (?); steatite; late New Kingdom to Late Egyptian Period.

Measurement: L. 13 mm, W. 9 mm. H. 6 mm.

Photo: Fig. 130-132.

236 **E VII g 6/h 6** **26/12/1978**



In the left hand of the skeleton, burial no. 27 B/78; scarab with inscription *Imn-R*^{c} *Sbk ḥḳ3 wsr*; steatite; late New Kingdom to Late Egyptian Period.

Measurement: L. 12 mm, W. 9 mm, H. 5 mm.

Photo: Fig. 130-132.

249 **E VII g 6/g 7** **3/01/1979**

In the debris; pot; some parts are missing; red burnt clay.

Measurement: Diameter 163 mm, H. 170 mm.

Photo: Fig. 134.

257 **E VII g 7** **9/01/1979**

In the debris; oviform pot with pointed base, handmade; red burnt clay.

Measurement: Diameter 135 mm, H. [illegible] mm.

Photo: Fig. 135.

258 **E VII e 6** **10/01/1979**

In a niche on the northern wall of tomb no. 4; stela with offering formula; some parts are missing, recently restored; limestone; 5th/6th Dyn.; see p. 88f.

Measurement: L. 395 mm, W. 290 mm.

Photo: Fig. 73 (cf. drawing 17).

260 **E VII h 7** **11/01/1979**

North of the skull of the skeleton, burial no. 50/79; oviform pot with pointed base;

the mouth is partly broken, recently restored; red burnt clay; Middle Kingdom to Second Intermediate Period.

Measurement: Diameter 174 mm, H. 315 mm.

Photo: Fig. 136.

261 **E VII g 7** **11/01/1979**

In a magazine near tomb no. 72/79; spherical pot; some parts of the mouth are missing, recently restored; red burnt clay; Middle Kingdom to Second Intermediate Period.

Measurement: diameter 168 mm, H. 205 mm.

Photo: Fig. 137.

262 **E VII g 7** **11/01/1979**

In a magazine near tomb no. 72/79; bowl with pointed base; partly broken, recently restored; red burnt clay; Middle Kingdom to Second Intermediate Period.

Measurement: Diameter 117 mm, H. 55 mm.

Photo: Fig. 138.

263 **E VII g 7** **11/01/1979**

In a magazine near tomb no. 72/79; pot with pointed base; partly broken, recently restored; red burnt clay; Middle Kingdom to Second Intermediate Period.

Measurement: Diameter 143 mm, H. 60 mm.

Photo: Fig. 139.

264 **E VII g 7** **11/01/1979**

In a magazine near tomb no. 72/79; pot; broken, some parts are missing, recently restored; red burnt clay; Middle Kingdom to Second Intermediate Period.

Measurement: Diameter 164 mm, H. 70 mm.

Photo: Fig. 140.

265 **E VII e 6** **14/01/1979**

In tomb no. 4 near the feet of the skeleton B; handmade pot with flat base; broken, some

parts are missing, recently restored; grey burnt clay, outside brown slip; 5th/6th Dyn.

Measurement: Diameter 66 mm, H. 97 mm.

Photo: Fig. 141.

266 E VII g 7 16/01/1979

In the debris; handmade pot; broken, part of mouth is missing, recently restored; yellow burnt clay.

Measurement: Diameter 96 mm, H. 190 mm.

Photo: Fig. 142.

270 E VII g 7 22/01/1979

In the debris of the north-east corner of the square; false door; the hieroglyphic inscription in very bad condition; the only clear hieroglyphs form the name *Ḫnsw- ḥtpw*. There are no remains of any title or epithet (the offering table no. 336 of the same person was found in the debris not far away from the false door); limestone; Middle Kingdom.

Measurement: L. 640 mm, W. 440 mm, Th. 150 mm.

Photo: Fig. 143.

271 E VII g 6 22/01/1979

In the north-east corner of the tomb no. 69/79, beside the skull of the skeleton; oviform pot with pointed base, handmade; mouth broken, recently restored; red burnt clay; Middle Kingdom to Second Intermediate Period.

Measurement: Diameter 243 mm, H. 295 mm.

Photo: Fig. 144.

272 E VII g 7 23/01/1979

Beside the skull of the skeleton of tomb no. 71/79; oviform pot with pointed base, handmade; broken, recently restored; red burnt clay; Middle Kingdom to Second Intermediate Period.

Measurement: Diameter 130 mm, H. 295 mm.

Photo: Fig. 145.

273 **E VII g 7** **23/01/1979**

Near the skeleton in tomb no. 71/79; amulet, so-called scaraboid, decorated with spirals; steatite; Middle Kingdom to Second Intermediate Period.

Measurement: L. 13 mm, W. 9 mm, H. 4 mm.

Photo: Fig. 146.

274 **E VII g 7** **23/01/1979**

On the chest of the skeleton in tomb no. 72/79; beads of different forms, recently stringed to a necklace of 400 mm length; fayence and carnelian; Middle Kingdom to Second Intermediate Period.

Measurement: Diameters of beads 2-7 mm.

Photo: Fig. 147.

275 **E VII g 7** **23/01/1979**

Left of the skeleton in tomb no. 72/79; plate, handmade; broken, some parts are missing, recently restored; red burnt clay; inside red slip; Middle Kingdom to Second Intermediate Period.

Measurement: Diameter 132-148 mm, H. 64 mm.

Photo: Fig. 148.

281 **E VII g 7** **24/01/1979**

In the north-east corner of the burial pit no. 76/79; oviform pot with pointed base, handmade; broken, recently restored; red burnt clay; Middle Kingdom to Second Intermediate Period.

Measurement: Diameter 132 mm; H. 282 mm.

Photo: Fig. 149.

282 **E VII g 6** **27/01/1979**

In the debris; cylindrical pot with round flat base, handmade, the lower part shows rough potter's finger marks; yellow burnt clay; the upper part bears a band of red slip.

Measurement: Diameter 116 mm, H. 228 mm.

Photo: Fig. 150.

283 **E VII g 6** **27/01/1979**

Near the northern wall of passage A in tomb no. 79/79; pot with pointed base, handmade; partly broken, recently restored; red burnt clay; Middle Kingdom to Second Intermediate Period.

Measurement: Diameter 88 mm, H. 210 mm.

Photo: Fig. 151.

284 **E VII f 6/g 6** **28/01/1979**

Near the feet of the skeleton in passage A of the tomb no. 79/79; cylindrical beads; recently stringed in four rows; white and green fayence; Middle Kingdom to Second Intermediate Period.

Measurement: Diameters of beads 3-4 mm, L. 16-21 mm.

Photo: Fig. 152.

285 **E VII g 6/g 7** **29/01/1979**

In the north-east corner of the tomb no. 80/79; oviform pot with pointed base, handmade; broken, some parts are missing, recently restored; red and grey burnt clay; Middle Kingdom to Second Intermediate Period.

Measurement: Diameter 121 mm, H. 276 mm.

Photo: Fig. 153.

288 **E VII g 7** **29/01/1979**

In the debris; pot with round flat base, wheelmade; the mouth is missing, recently restored; red burnt clay; inside and outside red slip; Middle Kingdom to Second Intermediate Period.

Measurement: Diameter 172 mm, H. 130 mm.

Photo: Fig. 154.

290 **E VII g 6** **30/01/1979**

Beside the skull of the skeleton in passage A of tomb no. 83/79; oviform pot with pointed base, handmade; broken, recently restored; red burnt clay; outside red slip; Middle Kingdom to Second Intermediate Period.

Measurement: Diameter 142 mm, H. 282 mm.

Photo: Fig. 155.

291 **E VII g 6** **30/01/1979**

Beside the skull of the skeleton in passage A of tomb no. 83/79; oviform pot with pointed base, handmade and roughly produced; partly broken, recently restored; grey burnt clay; Middle Kingdom to Second Intermediate Period.

Measurement: Diameter 138mm, H. 268 mm.

Photo: Fig. 156.

298 **E VII f 7** **3/02/1979**

In the western shaft of the so-called Family Tomb; small pot with pointed base; the mouth is missing; red burnt clay, with some remains of colour; late 4th Dyn.

Measurement: Diameter 112 mm, H. 146 mm.

Photo: Fig. 157.

316 **E VII e 6/e 7** **13/02/1979**

In the debris; small amulet in the shape of the head of a crocodile (Sobek); fayence.

Measurement: L. 35 mm, W. 12 mm.

Photo: Fig. 158.

327 **E VII g 6/h 6** **17/02/1979**

In the north-east corner of passage A in tomb no. 118/79; pot with pointed base, handmade; the pot was found in bad condition, recently restored; red burnt clay; remains of red slip inside and outside the mouth; Middle Kingdom to Second Intermediate Period.

Measurement: Diameter 140 mm, H. 292 mm.

Photo: Fig. 159.

328 **E VII g 6/h 6** **17/02/1979**

In the north-east corner of passage A in tomb no. 118/79; pot with pointed base, handmade; some parts of the mouth were broken, recently restored; yellow burnt clay; remains of red

slip inside and outside the mouth; Middle Kingdom to Second Intermediate Period.

Measurement: Diameter 138 mm, H. 300 mm.

Photo: Fig. 160.

329 **E VII g 6/h 6** **17/02/1979**

In the north-east corner of passage A in tomb no. 118/79; bowl, handmade, with potter's finger marks; some parts are missing; red burnt clay; Middle Kingdom to Second Intermediate Period.

Measurement: Diameter 173 mm, H. 71 mm.

Photo: Fig. 161.

330 **E VII g 6/h 6** **17/02/1979**

In the north of passage B in tomb no. 118/79; pot with pointed base, handmade; broken, some parts are missing, recently restored; grey burnt clay; outside remains of red slip; Middle Kingdom to Second Intermediate Period.

Measurement: Diameter 152 mm, H. 318 mm.

Photo: Fig. 162.

331 **E VII g 6/h 6** **17/02/1979**

In the north of passage B in tomb no. 118/79; cylindrical pot, handmade, roughly produced, at the lower part potter's finger marks; some parts are missing, recently restored; red burnt clay; Middle Kingdom to Second Intermediate Period.

Measurement: Diameter 109 mm, H. 212 mm.

Photo: Fig. 163.

332 **E VII g 6/h 6** **17/02/1979**

In the north of passage B in tomb no. 118/79; cylindrical pot, handmade, roughly produced, at the lower part potter's finger marks; some parts are missing, recently restored; red burnt clay; Middle Kingdom to Second Intermediate Period.

Measurement: Diameter 117 mm, H. 196 mm.

Photo: Fig. 164.

333 **E VII g 6/h 6** **17/02/1979**

In the north of the passage B in tomb no. 118/79; pot with pointed base, handmade; parts of the mouth were broken, recently restored; grey burnt clay; remains of red slip inside and outside the mouth; Middle Kingdom to Second Intermediate Period.

Measurement: Diameter 148 mm, H. 305 mm.

Photo: Fig. 165.

334 **E VII g 6/h 6** **17/02/1979**

In the north of passage C in tomb no. 118/79; pot with pointed base, handmade; parts of the mouth were broken, recently restored; grey burnt clay; remains of red slip inside and outside the mouth; Middle Kingdom to Second Intermediate Period.

Measurement: Diameter 145 mm, H. 262 mm.

Photo: Fig. 166.

336 **E VII e 8** **18/02/1979**

In the debris; offering table, with the hieroglyphic inscription *sḥḏ ḥmw nṯr Ḫnsw-ḥtpw* ("Overseer of the priests *Ḫnsw-ḥtpw*"); limestone; Middle Kingdom.

Measurement: L. 660 mm, W. 400 mm, Th. 120 mm.

Photo: Fig. 167.

339 **E VII f 6/f 7** **21/02/1979**

In the debris, at the southern border of the square; amulet in the shape of a leg, with a hole; carnelian.

Measurement: H. 21 mm.

Photo: Fig. 168.

356 **E VII g 6** **11/12/1979**

In the debris; pot with pointed base and large mouth, roughly produced, with potter's finger marks; some parts of the mouth are missing, recently restored; red burnt clay.

Measurement: Diameter 105 mm (mouth), 90 mm (base), H. 230 mm.

Photo: Fig. 169.

358 **E VII e 6** **11/03/1979**

In the area of tomb no. 3; oviform, spherical, and cylindrical beads; recently stringed to necklace of 270 mm length; fayence, carnelian, and glass.

Photo: Fig. 170.

393 **E VII e 6** **8/04/1979**

Near the skeleton in tomb no. 15; mirror with handle shaft, the handle is missing; completely corroded; copper; 5th/6th Dyn.

Measurements: Diameter 107-115 mm, Th. 3.5-4 mm;
handle shaft 22 x 11 mm.

Photo: Fig. 171.

397 **E VII f 7** **15/04/1979**

In a niche on the eastern wall of tomb no. 17; stela of *Mst* with offering formula; some parts are missing, recently restored; 5th/6th Dyn.; see p. 90-92.

Measurement: L. 625 mm, W. 420 mm.

Photo: Fig. 76 (cf. drawing 19).

536 **E VII e 7** **5/03/1980**

On the chest of the skeleton in the western passage of the court of the so-called Family Tomb; mirror with handle shaft; completely corroded, recently restored; copper; late 4th Dyn.

Measurement: Diameter 147-158 mm, Th. 3.5-4 mm.

Photo: Fig. 172.

654 **E VII h 7** **10/03/1980**

In the burial, intrusive in the eastern wall of the so-called Family Tomb; two vases; alabaster; late Old Kingdom.

654.1: long conical vase with pointed base, the mouth has a rim; broken, some parts are missing, recently restored.

Measurement: Diameter 25 mm, H. 133 mm.

654.2: long conical vase with pointed base, the mouth has a rim.

Measurement: Diameter 34 mm, H. 126 mm.

Photo: Fig. 173.

1435 E VII g 7 25/05/1985

In the main passage of the eastern wall of the so-called Family Tomb near its north-east corner; small vase with flat base, rough surface; in bad condition; dark-red burnt clay; late Old Kingdom(?).

Measurement: H. 95 mm.

Photo: Fig. 174.

1436 E VII g 7 25/05/1985

In the eastern chamber of the so-called Family Tomb; bowl; completely broken, some parts are missing; burnt clay; late Old Kingdom (?).

Measurement: Diameter 275 mm (mouth), H. 70 mm.

Photo: Fig. 175.

Unregistered E VII f 7 31/12/78

In the debris; big limestone disc; the battered rim of the disc showed geometrical decorations; in the middle of the disc a bubble; the condition of the limestone was so fragil that a restoration of this piece was impossible.

Measurement: Diameter 300 mm (disc), 60 mm (bubble), H. 50 mm.

6. Shabti Finds from Tell Basta

The systematic excavation of the cemetery led to the discovery of several complete sets of shabtis (except isolated finds which are specially mentioned each time). In most cases the parts of a set are very similar to each other; sometimes resemblances even occur between parts of different sets, and it can be assumed that they come from the same workshop. A feature of many sets is their very coarse finish. In many sets the face and wig, normally neatly modelled from a mummy-shaped negative mould, are formed of small attached pellets or rolls of clay or Nile mud.[1] The arms crossed over the chest, the breasts of the female figures and the kilts of the overseers which occur in most of the sets are often made in the same technique. Particularly these rough shabti-sets give the impression of not being Egyptian. One tends to ascribe them to the so-called Sea-peoples, who started to settle or were made to settle in the Eastern Delta from the Ramesside period on.[2]

We consider the publication of the shabtis within the complete publication of the excavation results as a special chapter justified due to the shape of some sets. On this occasion we will look at pieces that correspond to the normal standard and those which are strange as well as those shabtis which were found outside the tombs or burial pits and cannot be assigned to any burial.[3]

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1 A comparable piece is published by W. M. Flinders Petrie, Shabtis, London 1935, plate XXXII no. 142 (= British School of Archaeology in Egypt an Egyptian Research Account, 41st memoir).

2 M. I. Bakr, New Excavations at Tell Basta of Zagazig University, in: Colloques internationaux du C. N. R. S., no. 595. L'Égyptologie en 1979, Axes prioritaires de recherches, T. I, Paris 1982, pp. 153-167.

3 Comparable material of shabtis was found by Ahmed el-Sawi between 1967 and 1971 in the western part of the site that has meanwhile been covered with buildings; according to the short descriptions this material was found under the same or similar circumstances. Sets of shabtis from these excavations have been published by A. el-Sawi (Excavations at Tell Basta, Prague 1979) under the tombs numbers 71, 90, 99, 105, 150, 174, 195, and 202. Except the one from tomb no. 99, the series are dated to the New Kingdom.

To compare the Tell Basta material with other shabtis the following publications were used: Petrie, op. cit., P. E. Newberry, Funerary Statues and Model Sarcophagi, Cairo 1930 (= Cat. Gen.); H. D. Schneider, Shabtis - An Introduction of Ancient Egyptian Funerary Statues in the National Museum of Antiquities at Leiden, Vol. I-III, Leiden 1977 (= Collections of the National Museum of Antiquities at Leiden, Vol. 2).

To describe the shabtis the following scheme is used for the first line:

- on the left the official registration number of the Antiquities Register;
- in the middle the marking of the square according to the excavation plan;
- on the right the date of registration.

In a short statement is given the place of discovery, a description of the object including different items as state of preservation, material, colour, dimension, and dating, if possible. Thereafter the inscription - if existing - is given: Hieroglyphs or hieroglyphic transription of hieratic inscription, translation, and discussion.

32 E VIII 9/03/1978

The shabti was found on the surface of the Tell. Only the upper part is preserved. The figure is carefully modelled and wears a wig with the ends hanging over the shoulders. The armposition can no longer be made out. The shabti was grounded light brown, the features are indicated in black. There are no traces of painted-on utensils. Burnt Nile mud, brown; New Kingdom.

Measurement: H. 88 mm, W. 84 mm.

Photo: Fig. 176.

33 E VIII 9/03/1978

The shabti was found in the rubble of the Tell. Only the middle section of the shabti is preserved. The figure is carefully modelled. It is wearing a wig with the ends hanging over the shoulders. The partly destroyed arms are crossed over the chest. It was grounded light brown and painted on with black and red ink (demarcations to the inscriptions red, everything else black). The utensils, too, are painted on in black ink (hoes on the upper

arms, a basket on the back). The hieratic inscription is so badly damaged that no interpretation can be given. Burnt Nile mud, brown; New Kingdom.

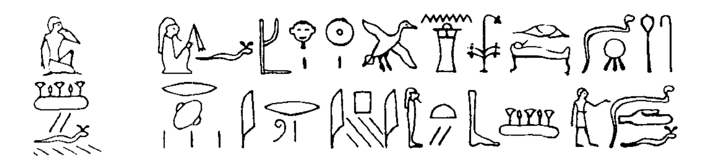
Measurement: H. 101 mm, W. 82 mm.

Photo: Fig. 176.

36 E VIII, tomb no. 1 13/03/1978

Upper part of a shabti with glazed surface, turqouise to light greenish colour, with black inscription burnt into it. Black lines mark the curls of the wig the ends of which hang over the shoulders of the figure. The nose is destroyed. The arms are crossed over the chest. Hoes are visible on the upper arm, on the back there is a basket, all is painted in black ink; the internal drawing of the basket is engraved whereas its outside shape was painted on in black ink before the figure was glazed. Fayence; Ramesside Period.

Inscription:



Translation:

1. Enlightened be Osiris, the singer of the Bastets, *P3-R^{c}-ḥr-wṯs.f*,
2. He should say: O, this shabti, when one calls, when (one) lists,
3. I (am) his shabti(?).

Comment:

The title of the man for whom the shabti was made is most probably *šm^{c} B3stt* "singer of Bastet"; however, the group is so narrow that it looks almost like , which would not make sense in this context. According to Ranke the name *P3-R^{c}-ḥr-wṯs.f* "Re will exalt him" is not verified; but formations with God plus *ḥr* plus verb sometimes occur, e.g. *Imn-ḥr-ssnb* "Amon will cure" (RPN I 10.10). A formation of a name *P3-R^{c}-ḥr-j3bt.f* "Re is to his left" as parallel formation to *P3-R^{c}-ḥr-wnm.f* "Re is to his right" (RPN I 114.17) can be excluded with regard to the hieroglyphic form of the sign = . In hieratic the sign (*j3bt*) is written completely differently, compare Möller, Hierat. Pal. II Nos. 405 (*wṯs*) and 578 (*j3b*). The sign is used as a determinative according to Ranke in all quotations for the names *R^{c}-ḥr-wnm.f* (RPN I 219.14) and *P3-R^{c}-ḥr-wnm.f*, therefore one should assume that in the name *P3-R^{c}-ḥr-j3bt.f*, too.

The text of the shabti formular in lines 2 and 3 is partly destroyed; after *ḏd.f* there should be: *j š3btj jpn jr ꜥš.tw jr ḥsb.tw*, but after *jpn* there is [hieroglyphs]. In the third line the answer call of the shabti, here shortened to [hieroglyphs], is given. In its full length it could read *mk.wj jnk š3btj.f* "look at me, I am his shabti", though the correct formula is *jrj.j jnk mk.wj* "I do it, me, look at me".

Measurement: H. 115 mm, W. 55 mm.

Hieroglyphic inscription: 2 horizontal lines, 1 vertical line.

Photo: Fig. 177 (cf. drawing 26).

48 **E VII h 3/i 4** **23/03/1978**

The shabti was found in the corridor of the *B3wt*-tomb. It has no legs, head and neck were found separate from the body, the shabti could be restored. Its form is typical for the New Kingdom; a curled wig with the ends hanging over the shoulders. The arms are crossed over the chest. There are no traces of painted-on utensils. Originally the figure was painted yellow, on the front there was a hieratic inscription that is now illegible. Burnt Nil mud; New Kingdom.

Measurement: H. 203 mm, W. 53 mm.

Photo: Fig. 178.

49 **E VII** **23/03/1978**

The shabti was found in the area of the *B3wt*-tomb. Only the upper part of the shabti is preserved. The face is damaged. The figure has a wig with the ends hanging far over the shoulders. The position of the arms can no longer be made out. Originally it was painted reddish, there are no traces of black markings for utensils and facial features. Burnt Nile mud, brown; New Kingdom.

Measurement: H. 75 mm, W. 53 mm.

Photo: Fig. 176.

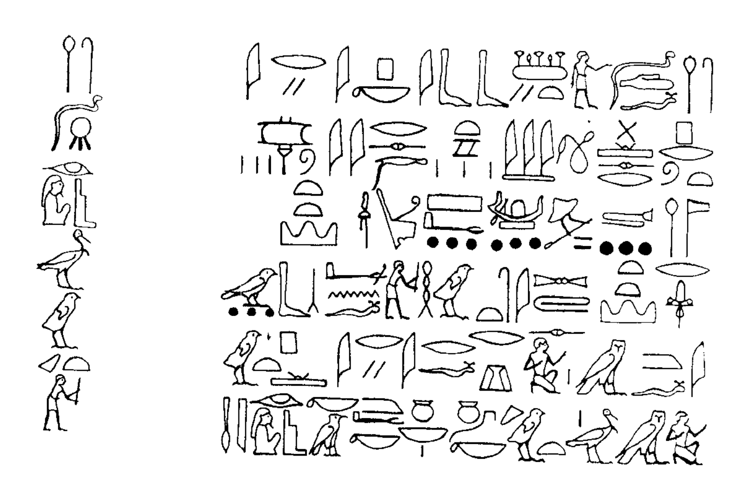
59 **E VIII** **27/03/19778**

The well-manufactured and neatly inscribed shabti shows a man with his arms crossed over his chest. He is embraced by a man-headed Ba-bird, holding the ◯-sign in its talons; it

spreads its wings across the man's chest to the edge of his shoulders. From the tips of the wings, straps are placed across the shoulders of the figure; two hoes are fastened onto these straps, and carried on his back. The Ba-bird seems to be fastened with ribbons to the neck of the figure. The man wears a curled wig under which his natural long hair is visisble; it does no cover his ears and hangs over the upper part of his chest. He has a carefully folded gown - a kind of long tunic - and a long triangular kilt. He wears a long shawl which covers his upper arms and hangs down over the loincloth in front. His dress is completed by sandals.

The shabti was re-used in an infant burial. Judging from dress and inscription it comes from the tomb of a superior offiicial whose name was *B3wt* and whose tomb is situated in the area of the big New Kingdom tombs (*Ḥrj* I and II, *Iwtj* and others). In the past the figure was brocken in two between the kilt and feet and mended by means of a wooden stick. Schist, engraved, not painted; New Kingdom.

Inscription:



Translation:

1. Order: He should say: O, this shabti, when
2. one counts, when one lists, to cultivate the fields, to fill
3. the channels, (to) carry sand from west
4. to east and vice versa, you shall avert evils for him
5. in it (i.e. the kingdom of the dead) as man under his command. When one counts
6. me as *B3wt* at any time, "I, himself (myself)" (you then shall say); thus speaks the blessed Osiris.
7. Enlightened be the Osiris *B3wt*.

Comment:

It seems to be certain that the inscription of the shabti begins with *swḏ* "order, command". Because of the shapes of the sign that are in general engraved fairly well and carefully, neither *sḥḏ* "be enlightened" nor *m3ᶜ ḫrw* "blessed" would fit. At the end of the first line there is instead of . The three first groups of the second line show the well-known formula *jr jp.tw ḥsb.tw r srd*, the succession of signs are quite arbitrary. At the end of this line *smḥ* "to fill in" is written ; that was obviously mixed up with *mḥjt* "north-wind" (Wb II 125). In the forth line the word *sḏb* "evils" shows the group that seems developed from the hieratic form (compare Möller, Hierat. Pal. II). The same spelling occurs in Petrie's no. 156 (19th Dyn., UC London). The concluding formula of the shabti (line 6) contains several mistakes, e.g. in *nw nb* "at any time" *nb* is written ; after that is engraved. Here either *jnk* "I" or "at any day" is meant; judging from the form, both would be possible. Finally after *mk* "look" a *wj* "me" is missing.

Measurement: H. 151 mm, W. 44 mm.

Hieroglyphic inscription: 6 horizontal lines, 1 vertical line; the vertical line at the front in the centre of the loincloth.

Photo: Fig. 179 (cf. drawing 27).

65.1-5 **E VIII** **2/04/1978**

Three of the five shabtis of the set which were found in a broken jug next to a plundered anthropoid coffin were broken and later restored. The overseer wears a kilt. All figures of the set have black dots. The shabtis have wigs with the ends hanging over the shoulders. The arms are crossed over the chest. There are no traces of painted-on utensils. Burnt Nile mud, brown; New Kingdom.

Inscription / Translation:

Of the inscription only *wb3w*-priest is clear. The name may begin with *nḏm*, the signs following, however, are washed away, so the second part of the name cannot be interpreted.

Measurement: H. 196 mm, W. 82 mm (max.);
H. 189 mm, W. 80 mm (min.).

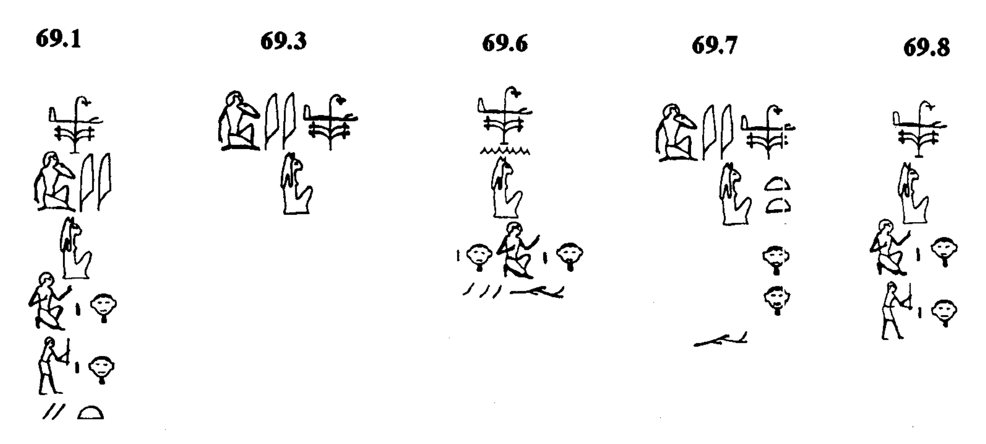
Hieratic inscription: black ink, partly painted redish.

Photo: Fig. 180.

69.1-12 E VIII 3/04/1978

Not all the figures of the twelve part set found in a broken jug north-west of tomb 1 are complete; feet, legs and heads are missing. Some pieces could be restored. The shabtis are very softly modelled with a particularly strong emphasis on nose and mouth. The ends of the wigs are long and hang over the shoulders. The hands are crossed over the chest and are indicated by rolls of clay. The overseer wears a kilt and holds a whip in his right hand. There are traces of painted-on utensils. In addition, facial features, wigs and hands were indicated in black ink. Burnt Nile mud, reddish brown; Ramesside Period.

Inscriptions:



Translation:

Singer of the Bastet *Ḥr.j-ḥr-nḫt*.

Comment:

Due to different kinds of spelling on the pieces of this set of shabtis, the name *Ḥr.j-ḥr-nḫt* can be read clearly, though many signs of the inscriptions are written very hastily or rather do not show the typically hieratic forms. The writer's writing brush seems to have slipped from the vaulted surface several times. The name "my face is (directed) towards the strong" is not verified by Ranke, however formations with *ḥr.j-ḥr ...* "my face is (directed) to ..." are well-known, especially in connection with the name of gods (compare RPN I 252.15 et seq.); *nḫt* "the strong" might mean either Seth who was worshipped in the eastern delta or the king.

Measurement: H. 195 mm, W. 80 mm (max.);
H. 184 mm, W. 75 mm (min.).

Hieratic inscription: black ink, the lines have demarcations.

Photo: Fig. 181 (cf. drawing 28/1.2.).

72.1-20 **E VIII** **13/03/1978**

Nine of twenty shabtis of this set were found in a completely broken jug north-east of tomb no. 5, some parts of the shabtis are missing; the pieces of the set were restored. They only show slight indications of body shape which were clearly marked by rolls, the ends of the wigs cover the shoulders. The overseers wear kilts and hold a wip in their right hands. There are remnants of reddish-brown slip. The simple shabtis have hoes painted on their backs; no traces of painted-on baskets are visible. All figures have black spots and changes in colour. Burnt Nile mud, light brown; Ramesside period.

Inscriptions:

72.1	72.3/5/6/9/13/16/18	72.8/10/12/20	72.15/19 (overseer)
			

Translation:

Osiris *Stẖ-ḥr-ḫpš.f.*

Comment:

The name "Seth is on his *ḫpš*-sword" is sufficiently verified for the New Kingdom. Several Ramesside princes had this name (compare RPN I 322.6). The reading of the name is clear; on some pieces the suffix is missing. On five of the twenty shabtis the remnants of signs are so few that it is impossible to assign them to the above mentioned variants of the inscription.

Measurement: H. 175 mm, W. 51 mm (max.);
H. 165 mm, W. 42 mm (min.).

Hieratic inscription: 1 line.

Photo: Fig. 182 (72.1-10), 183 (72.1-10, 184 (72.11-20)

Drawing: 29/1.-3. (72/1, 72/5, 72/19).

81.1-8 E VII 8/04/1978

The shabtis of the set were found in a broken jug at the east side of a right-angled tomb made of Nile mud bricks, some of them are slightly damaged at the feet. The figures have a relatively routh finish. The faces are clear with long noses, long chins with goate beards(?), mouths are indicated by attached pellets of Nile mud. In front, two strings of natural hair are laid over the shoulders, the rest falling down from the back of the head over the neck with the space at ear level not covered. The overseer who holds a stick or a whip in his right hand and whose kilt originally was put on and burst off before it was inscribed, has an undivided wig with forhead curls. The faces look more or less un-Egyptian, and are similar to those of many well-known descriptions of the so-called Sea-people, e.g. in the Medinet Habu. The shabtis of this set have either arms or both hands of the crossed arms clearly indicated. Burnt Nile mud, ochre; Ramesside period. The set is now in the Egyptian Museum, Cairo, JE 95027-95034.

Inscriptions:

The hieratic inscriptions of this shabti-set cannot be transcribed certainly. The only clear signs are [hieroglyphs] *ḥm nṯr* "priest" at the beginning of the vertical line, obviously the title of the shabti's owner, and at the end of the line [hieroglyphs]. The hieroglyphs forming the name of the priest are unclear. Possibly the name reads [hieroglyphs] or [hieroglyphs]. The hieratic sign [hieratic sign] may be interpreted as [hieroglyph], too, the sign — as [hieroglyph] or [hieroglyph] respectively. Names as *Npjrj*, *Spjrj*, *Nšjrj*, or *Sšjrj* are not attested in Ranke (RPN I and II), but are clearly un-Egyptian. It ist nearly impossible to assume that the title ḥm nṯr is followed by *n* plus the name of a god whose name begins with [hieroglyph] because a god's name Š.... is not verified sufficiently in the files of the Berlin Wörterbuch as well as by other sources.

Measurement: H. 180 mm, W. 45 mm (max.);
H. 152 mm, W. 40 mm (min.).

Hieratic inscription: black ink.

Photo: Fig. 185.

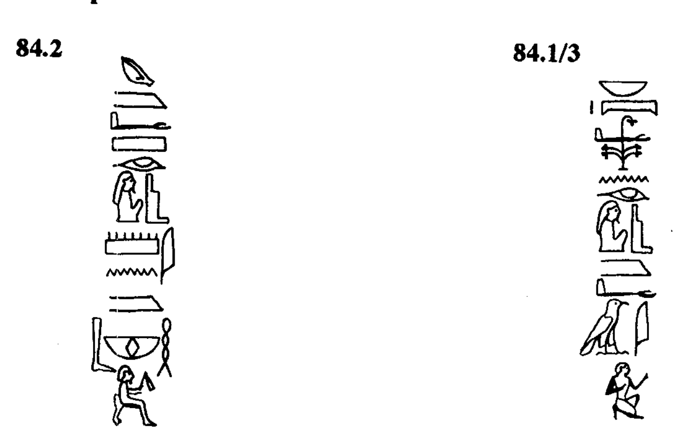
84.1-3 E VII 10/04/1978

The three shabtis were found in the rubble east of the *B3wt*-tomb and are almost completely preserved; only at the feet is some damage. They have different descriptions and only two belong to one set. The figures show the typical New Kingdom form: Long wig ends falling

down over the shoulders, ears not covered with hair and arms crossed over the chest. Utensils (hoe and basket) are painted on to the back. Necklaces and pectoral jewellery are indicated, the curls of the wig as well. Fayence, light turqoise; New Kingdom.

Inscription:

84.2 **84.1/3**



Translation (84.2): The servant, the Osiris *Imn-m-hb.*

Translation (84.1/3): Singer (male) of the Lord of Heaven, the Osiris *Mj.*

Comment:

A male singer of the Lord of Heaven is not yet known, however there is a female singer (*šmꜥ.tj nb pt*, cf. Petrie's no. 335 (pl. VIII; UC London). The name *Mj* is verified as male name for the New Kingdom (compare RPN I 146.1).

Measurement: 84.1 - H. 128 mm, W. 43 mm;
84.2 - H. 152 mm, W. 42 mm;
84.3 - H. 130 mm, W. 42 mm.

Hieratic inscriptions: Burnt into the shabtis together with glaze, black.

Photo: Fig. 186 (cf. drawing 31/1.2.).

86.1-4 E VIII 7/04/1978

The four shabtis of this set were found in the south-east corner of the *B3wt*-tomb. Three pieces could be restored, the lower part of one figure is missing. Originally the surface of the shabtis had stucco attached and was painted yellow; hair and face were painted black. The ends of the wig hang over the shoulders. The arms are crossed over the chest and indicated only by a rough roll in the middle of the body. Nose and eyes are strongly marked. There are no traces of painted-on utensils. Some figures have secondary remainders of stucco or mortar sticking to them. Burnt Nile mud, reddish; Late Egyptian Period.

Inscription:

On two pieces (86.1/4) remainders of a hieratic inscription in black ink are preserved. Only the first two signs of the inscription are clear. They can be read either as "enlightened be" (the Osiris NN) or "priest". Of further sings only traces are visible, that do not allow any interpretation.

Measurement: H. 190 mm, W. 75 mm (max.);
H. 183 mm, W. 64 mm (min.).

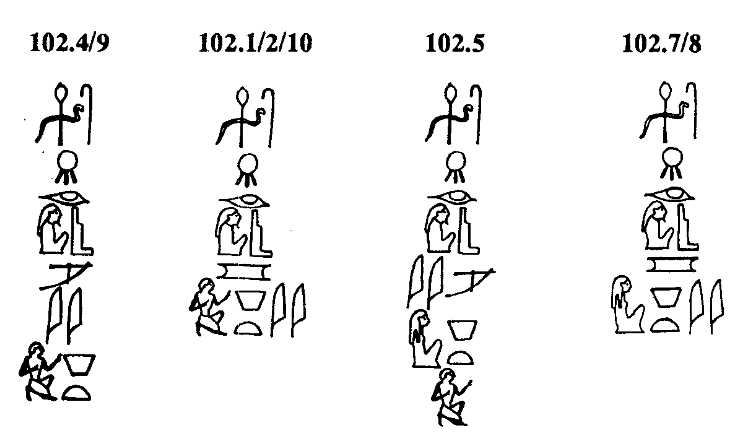
Hieratic inscriptions: Black ink.

Photo: Fig. 187.

102.1-10 E VII 13/04/1978

The ten shabtis of this set were found in a broken jug at the east side of tomb 5; they could be completely restored. An overseer with a kilt belongs to the group. All figures are very roughly finished and relatively flat. The heads jut out distinctly from the body axle, the ends of the wigs hang far down over the chest. The pieces show remnants of red paint on which hair and features were drawn in black ink. Hoes are painted on the upper arms, a basket on the back. Burnt Nile mud, brown; New Kingdom.

Inscriptions:



Translation:

Enlightened be the Osiris *Mrjj-ḥnwt*.

Comment:

The name *Mrjj-ḥnwt* "the lover of the mistress" is not yet attested according to Ranke (compare, however, RPN I 243.13 *Ḥnwt-mrj* [?]; 19th dynasty). But formations with

mrjj and god occur quite often (RPN I 160.6 et seq.), so such a name seems fairly possible, particularly as by *hnwt* a goddess, perhaps Bastet could be meant. The reading of the group as *hnwt* is definite because of the determinative in 102.5/7/8.

Measurement: H. 175 mm, W. 47 mm (max.);
H. 160 mm, W. 41 mm (min.).

Hieratic inscriptions: Black ink.

Photo: Fig. 188-189.

233.1-5 E VII h 6 26/12/1978

The five shabtis of this set were found in an earthenware jug to the right of the anthropoid coffin in tomb 27 A. Some of them are broken but could be restored. The shabtis are very roughly finished; eyes, noses and on one figure also the arms are attached rolls. The wigs are not modelled. There are no remains of painting or inscriptions. Burnt Nile mud, light brown; Late Egyptian Period.

Measurement: H. 155 mm, W. 59 mm (max.);
H. 153 mm, W. 46 mm (min.).

Photo: Fig. 190.

237.1-5 E VII h 7 28/12/1978

The five shabtis of this set, one of which beeing the overseer, were found in broken condition in a burst earthenware jug to the left of the anthropoid coffin (tomb no. 29); they were restored. They were manufactured without clear indications of face and body parts. There are no wigs. The hands, indicated by rolls, lie on the chest. The features are marked in black ink. Traces of painted-on utensils are visible, however their form cannot be defined. Burnt Nile mud, smooth, light brown; New Kingdom.

Inscriptions:

237.3 - /// 237.2 (overseer) -

Comment:

The pieces 237.1/4/5 no longer have inscriptions. The name of the owner of this set of shabtis was *Nḫt* (RPN I 209.16). On the overseer's kilt is written *ḥrj Nḫt*, which most probably means "highest of the *Nḫt*(-shabtis)" and should not be read as the title of *Nḫt*. All signs of the inscriptions are very pale.

Measurement: H. 216 mm, W. 59 mm (max.);

H. 205 mm, W. 47 mm (min.).

Hieratic inscriptions: Black ink.

Photo: Fig. 191 (cf. drawing 33).

303.1-6 **E VII h 6** **11/02/1979**

The six shabtis of this set, one of them beeing an overseer with a kilt, were found in a broken pot. Some of them were broken and restored. The figures have long wigs with the ends hanging over the chest. The arms are crossed over the chest and - like the ends of the wigs - indicated by rolls. Eyes, mouth and nose are also marked by attached rolls. No remains of previous painting or inscriptions have been preserved. Burnt Nile mud, brown; New Kingdom.

Measurement: H. 207 mm, W. 67 mm (max.);

H. 189 mm, W. 56 mm (min.).

Photo: Fig. 192.

387.1-3 **E VII h 5** **5/04/1979**

Of the three shabtis of this set which were found in the rubble, only the overseer with a kilt is completely preserved. The lower parts of the other figures are missing. The overseer has a relatively rough finish and is quite compact; the wig is just indicated, the hands that lie on the chest, too. Remainders of white stucco and red painting are visible; faciaol features and hair are marked in black ink. The other pieces have neatly modelled wigs, the ends of which hang over the shoulders. Traces of brown painting are clearly vissible. They obviously belong to a set different from that of the overseer; contrary to the latter they are carefully smoothed out. There are no remains of painted-on utensils. On the figure of the overseer, traces of a hieratic inscription are preserved, however these are illegible as large parts of the surface are covered with black spots. Burnt Nile mud, reddish and light brown; New Kingdom (?).

Measurement: H. 180 mm, W. 67 mm (max.), W. 56 mm (min.).

Hieratic inscription: Black ink.

Photo: Fig. 193.

405.1-2 **E VII h 7** **22/04/1979**

The two shabtis of this set were found in broken condition in the rubble of the E V area and could be restored. One of these figures is an overseer wearing a kilt made of an animal's skin. Both pieces have wigs with the ends hanging far over the shoulders. Hair, clothes, features, and washed out traces of utensils (hoes) are painted on in black ink. The arms are posed over the chest. At shabti 405.1 traces of an illigible inscription are preserved. All figures have black spots that does not come from burning. Burnt Nile mud, brown; Late Egyptian Period.

Measurement: H. 135 mm, W. 54 mm (max.);
H. 123 mm, W. 39 mm (min.).

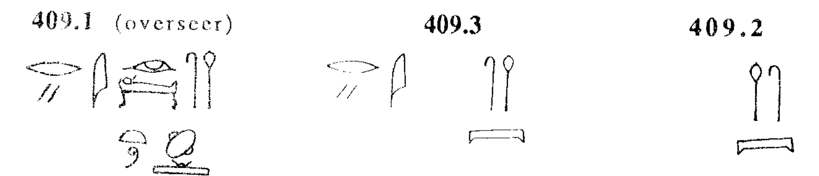
Hieratic inscriptions: Black ink.

Photo: Fig. 194.

409.1-5 **E VII i 6** **24/04/1979**

The shabtis in this set of five pieces were found in a broken jug in the rubble; most of them were broken and incomplete, they could be restored only partly. One of the figures is an overseer with a big triangular kilt with knots which are neatly modelled. None of the figures wears a wig. The arms are indicated by rolls, leading from the shoulder to the chest in a quarter of a circle without indication of the elbows. Noses, eyes, chins, and ears are marked by attached pellets of Nile mud, thus giving the faces an un-Egyptian look that resembles those of set 81 and some pottery coffins from tell Basta. There are no traces of painted-on utensils. Burnt Nile mud, reddish; Late Egyptian Period.

Inscriptions:



The pieces 409.4/5 have no legible remainders of signs.

Comment:

The text of the shabtis begins with *sḥḏ* "enlightened be" the *Ws-jr jrj* "the belonging Osiris" whose name remains unknown. On all marked pieces the spelling of the introductory *sḥḏ* is written like the group *wḏ mdw* "order", however one should decide

in favour of the normal introduction *sḥḏ Ws-jr*. To read the first two signs m3c-ḫrw as "the blessed" as is sometimes verified, does not make much sense. Two pieces of the set give *ḥrj* "highest" as title. The inscription on the overseer has the addition *ḥsb.tw* "(when) one lists" (people for work), the beginning of the shabti-formula. The hieratic signs of all inscribed pieces are partly washed away and look very pale; a facsimile of the text can not be given. The interpretation of the inscription therefore remains being doubtful.

Measurement: H. 202 mm, W. 83 mm (max.);
H. 181 mm, W. 75 mm (min.).

Hieratic inscriptions: Black ink.

Photo: Fig. 195-196.

410.1-2 E VII i 6 24/04/1979

Parts of the two shabtis that were found in the rubble are missing. One of the two pieces is an overseer with a kilt made of a beast's skin. The head of this figure is missing, too. Both pieces have arms crossed over the chest. Facial features, hair (wig), and kilt are painted in black ink. There are no utensils. They are roughly finished. Burnt Nile mud, reddish brown; Late Egyptian Period.

Inscriptions:

Remains of hieratic signs are preserved on both pieces. One can perhaps transcribe them like this:

410.1



410.2

Translation:

Enlightened be the Osiris *Ḥr-m...*

Comment:

The sign after the Horus falcon may mean the hieratic determinative of gods which, however, is seldom verified in names. Names of the form *Ḥr-m...* "Horus is in ..." are

verified sufficiently well since the New Kingdom and occur frequently in the Late Egyptian Period (compare RPN I 247.15 et seq.).

Measurement: W. 40 mm.

Hieratic inscriptions: Black ink.

Photo: Fig. 194, 197.

412.1-6 E VII i 6 25/04/1979

The set consisting of six shabtis was found in broken condition in a damaged jug next to tomb 154 and was restored. The head is missing. Only the overseer wears a small attached triangular kilt. Several figures lack feet. All shabtis of this set are very roughly finished. The hands lie on the chest and are indicated by lumps of Nile mud, as are the ends of the wigs. There are no traces of any previous painting or inscription. Burnt Nile mud, light brown; Late Egyptian Period.

Measurement: H. 148 mm, W. 61 mm (max.);
H. 135 mm, W. 38 mm (min.).

Photo: Fig. 198.

415.1-3 E VII i 6 25/04/1979

The three shabtis of this series were found in broken condition in the rubble and were restored. Arms and wigs of the figures are indicated by rolls of Nile mud; the arms are crossed over the chest. Facial features and hair are painted on in black ink; there were no utensils visible. All pieces are very roughly finished. Burnt Nile mud, redish- brown; Late Egyptian Period.

Inscriptions / Comment:

Of the hieratic inscriptions only the group [hieroglyphs] "Osiris Ḥr ..." is legible. Judging from the inscriptions and make of the figures they may possibly belong to set 410.

Measurement: H. 120 mm, W. 42 mm (max.);
H. 115 mm, W. 41 mm (min.).

Hieratic inscriptions: Black ink, demarcation lines around the script.

Photo: Fig. 194, 199.

420.1-8 / 429.1-2 E VII i 6 27/04/1979

Eight shabtis (no. 420) of this series were found in a broken jug near to tomb 159 C, and two (no. 429) in the rubble of tomb 169. They are almost completely preserved; there is only minor damage. One figure is an overseer wearing a small triangular kilt. All shabtis have long wigs with the ends hanging far over the shoulders. The arms lie on the chest and are not crossed. Noses and eyes are clearly modelled. There are no painted-on utensils visible. Burnt Nile mud, brown; Late Egyptian Period.

Inscriptions: **Comment:**

420.1 (overseer) All other pieces of the set no. 420/429 only show remains of unidentified signs; only in 420.4 a is clearly visible. The text preserved on the overseer begins with the titel *ḥrj 10* "highest of the ten (shabtis)". After this the introductory formula *sḥḏ Ws-jr* "enlightened be the Osiris" follows; the name of the deceased begins with *Mr...*

Measurement: H. 196 mm, W. 72 mm (max.);
H. 172 mm, W. 65 mm (min.).

Hieratic inscriptions: Black ink.

Photo: Fig. 200 (420.1-8), 201 (429.1-2).

422.1-11 E VII i 7 28/04/1979

The set of 11 shabtis was found in a broken jug next to tomb 162; it was badly damaged; only few pieces could be restored. The head is missing from the overseer wearing a short kilt with clearly modelled knots. All figures have long wigs with the ends hanging over the shoulders. The arms are indicated by rolls attached to the chest. There are no painted-on utensils. The overseer has a hieratic inscription on his kilt, all the other figures another one on their backs, as far as still visible. Burnt Nile mud, brown; Late Egyptian Period.

Inscriptions:

422.1 (overseer) After comparing all preserved remains of signs of the other shabtis one can read:

Translations:

(Overseer) 1. Enlightened [is Osiris], 2. *P3-[nḫt]*, 3. ...

(other shabtis) Osiris *P3-nḫt*.

Comment:

All these readings,however, are very uncertain. According to Ranke (RPN I 113.14) the name *P3-nḫt* is verified sufficiently well for the Late Egyptian Period.

Measurement: H. 184 mm, W. 79 mm (max.);

H. 180 mm, W. 69 mm (min.).

Hieratic inscriptions: Black ink, mostly washed out to reddish.

Photo: Fig. 202.

426 E VII i 6 28/04/1979

The shabti was found in the debris next to tomb 169; it is not well preserved; the right shoulder is broken off. The facial features are well modelled as well as the natural hair. The arms of the shabti are indicated by rolls of Nile mud; originally they were crossed over the chest. There are no remains of previously existing inscriptions, and no signs of painted-on utensils. Burnt Nile mud, brown; Late Egyptian Period.

Measurement: H. 180 mm, W. 72 mm.

Photo: Fig. 203.

427.1-11 E VII i 6 28/04/1979

The eleven shabtis of this set were found next to tomb 169 in a jug. They are well preserved. The figures are grounded in red and painted with black ink. The hands, the long wig ends, eyes, and noses are indicated by attached lumps and rolls. There are no remains of previously existing inscriptions, and no signs of painted-on utensils. One of these shabtis is an overseer wearing a small triangular kilt. Burnt Nile mud, red grounded; Late Egyptian Period.

Measurement: H. 183 mm, W. 154 mm (max.);

H. 68 mm, W. 54 mm (min.).

Photo: Fig. 204.

503 - 505 **E VII i 6** **10/01/1980**

The three shabtis were found in the debris. The figures no. 503 an4 504 appear to belong to one set the other pieces of which are missing. Only the head and the chest are preserved; the faces are damaged. They have long, neatly modelled wigs with the ends hanging over the shoulders. The arms are crossed over the chest. The shabti no. 505 belongs to another set; it looks like the pieces of set 233. Only the lower part of the figure is preserved; the head is missing. Remains of a red wash are visisble on all pieces; there are no indications of utensils or features marked in black. Traces of preciously existing inscriptions cannot be made out. Burnt Nile mud, reddish; New Kingdom (?).

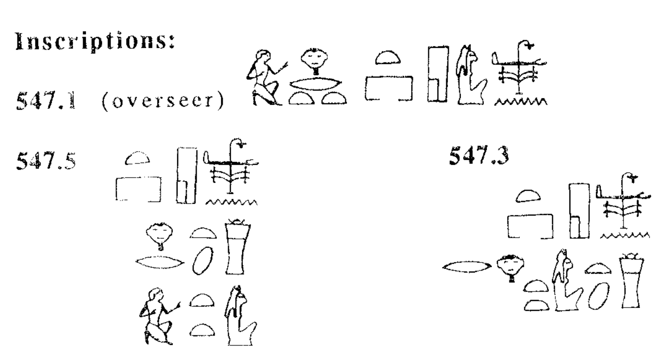
Measurement: 503 - H. 125 mm, W. 58 mm;
504 - H. 128 mm, W. 54 mm;
505 - H. 158 mm, W. 67 mm.

Photo: Fig. 176 (503-504), 205 (505).

547.1-11 **E VII i 7** **24/03/1980**

The eleven figures of this set were found in a broken jar; they are to a good deal completely preserved. One shabti is an overseer. The shabtis have wigs with the ends hanging over the shoulders, the hands are crossed over the chest. The breasts of the figures are clearly indicated by attached pellets of Nile mud; their hands are made in the same technique. Noteworthy is the engraved mouth. Burnt Nile mud, reddish brown; Late Egyptian Period.

Inscriptions:



In 547.9/10 the determinative of the goddess Bastet is:

Translation:

Singer (female) of the Bastet temple *Hrtt*.

Comment:

The title "singer of the Bastet temple" is probable, as according to Zeinab el-Kordy (La

déesse Bastet, Phil. Diss., Cairo 1979, p. 73 et seq.) up to now only female singers have been verified for Bastet (compare, however, shabti Tell Basta no. 36). The reading of the name *Ḥrtt*, despite the determinative , would most probably apply to a man, is not absolutely certain. Judging from the form of the signs it could also be transscribed ; this name would have to be read *Ḥrj-jdbwj* or *Ḥrj-t3.wj*. According to Ranke (RPN I 253.13), the latter form written is verified for the Ptolemaic period as a name of a male person, while *Ḥrtt* is still unknown. The determination of the goddesses name with the sign became usual since the Middle Kingdom, according to Zeinab el-Kordy (loc. cit., p. 134 et seq.).

Measurement: H. 178 mm, W. 63 mm (max.);
H. 172 mm, W. 56 mm (min.).

Hieratic inscriptions: Black ink.

Photo: Fig. 206-207 (cf. drawing 34/1.2.).

548.1-11 **E VII i 7** **24/03/1980**

The set of eleven shabtis was found in a broken pot next to an unnumbered tomb; the pieces are almost completely preserved and were restored, as several were broken. All shabtis show normal workers; the overseer, normally the eleventh figure, is not especially marked. All of them are carefully modelled; mouth, eyes, eyebrows, and noses are neatly finished. The wig ends hang far over the shoulders and show distinctly marked curls. The arms are crossed over the chest. There are no traces of painted-on utensils. Burnt Nile mud, light brown; New Kingdom.

Inscriptions:

The remains of signs preserved cannot be read certainly.

In **548.1** "enlightened be" seems to be written,

in **548.11** "Osiris". There is no traces of any personal name, the signs have been demage by dampness.

Measurement: H. 196 mm, W. 59 mm (max.);
H. 165 mm, W. 53 mm (min.).

Hieratic inscriptions: Black ink.

Photo: Fig. 208.

549.1-11 **E VII i 7** **24/03/1980**

The set of eleven shabtis was found in a broken jug in the neighbourhood of an unnumbered tomb; ten of the eleven pieces are nearly completely preserved, only one had to be restored. All figures are very roughly modelled. Wigs and arms are attached by rolls of Nile mud; four shabtis have lost their arms. All of them are depicted as normal workers; the overseer is not especially marked. Burnt Nile mud, light brown; New Kingdom (?).

Measurement: H. 198 mm, W. 76 mm (max.);
H. 163 mm, W. 64 mm (min.).

Photo: Fig. 209.

At the same time and site like no. 32 here, a torso of a shabti was found in the debris the details of which are unworth to be published. This piece is registered as no. 1 of the Antiquities Register of Tell Basta. Material: Burnt Nile mud; brown. Measurement: H. 132 mm, W. 52 mm.

Photo: Fig. 176.

At the same time and site like no. 549, the upper part of a shabti (head and shoulder) was found in the debris; it is registered as no. **559**. The material of this piece is burnt Nile mud brown coloured. The figure is very roughly modlled; only some facial features and parts of the wig are visible (measurement: H. 88 mm, W. 70 mm). Most probably it is to be dated to the Late Egyptian Period.

Photo: Fig. 210.



Captions to the figures

1 Panorama (1982) of Tell Basta looking to the south. In the foreground, the area of the Palace of the Middle Kingdom. In the centre in front of the magazines the area of the so-called Western Cemetery, and to the east that of the craftmen's settlement of the New Kingdom. West of the Mo^{c}ahda road the area of the cat-cemetery and that of the excavation of Ahmed es-Sawi recently built over by modern houses.

2 Panorama (1987) of the residential area of villa-like houses of late New Kingdom looking to the east.

3 Panorama (1984) of the so-called Eastern Cemetery looking to the east. The area of the mud brick mastaba is covered by remains of small houses.

4 Panorama (1984) of the so-called Eastern Cemetery looking to the north.

5 First layer, burial 13/78; anthropoid pottery coffin.

6 First layer, burial 15/78.

7 First layer, burial 16/78; anthropoid pottery coffin.

8 First layer, sketch of burial 18/78.

9 First layer, burial 21/78.

10 First layer, burial 22/78.

11 First layer, burial 23/78.

12 First layer, burial 24/78; in the foreground burial 23/78.

13 First layer, sketch of burial 27A/78; anthropoid pottery coffin.

14 First layer, sketch of burial 27B/78; anthropoid pottery coffin.

15 First layer, burial 36/78.

16 Second layer, sketch of a rectangular mud brick tomb.

17 Third layer, burial 1/78.

18 Third layer, burial 2/78.

19 Third layer, burial 5/78.

20 Third layer, burial 6/78.

21 Third layer, burial 7/78.

22 Third layer, burial 8/78.

23 Third layer, burial 9/78.

24 Third layer, burial 10/78.

25 Third layer, burial 19/78.

26 Third layer, burial 20/78.

27 Third layer, burial 50/79.

28 Third layer, burial 51/79.

29 Third layer, burial 55/79.

30 Third layer, burial 59/79.

31 Third layer, burial 69/79.

32 Third layer, burial 72/79 (label shows 71 wrongly).

33 Third layer, sketch of rectangular mud brick tomb, burial 80/79.

34 Third layer, sketch of rectangular mud brick tomb, burial 83/79.

35 Third layer, burial 118/79.

36 Third layer, sketch of rectangular mud brick tomb, burial 118/79.

37 Fourth layer, burial 11/78.

38 Fourth layer, burial 12/78.

39 Fourth layer, burial 26/78.

40 Fourth layer, burial 45/79 (NW - 45 A, SW - 45 B, NE - 45 C, SE - 45 D).

41 Fourth layer, burial 45 B.

42 Forth layer, sketch of rectangular mud brick tombs 45/79, 62/79, and 63/79.

43 Fourth layer, burial 52/79.

44 Fourth layer, burial 54/79.

45 Fourth layer, burial 58/79.

46 Fourth layer, tomb 62/79 and tomb 63/79. Remnants of tombs of the fifth layer are visible below these tombs as well as in the foreground and to the right.

47 Forth layer, burial 62 A (label shows 63 wrongly).

48 Fourth layer, burial 62 B.

49 Fourth layer, burial 65/79.

50 Fourth layer, burial 66/79.

51 Fourth layer, burial 67/79, in the background burial 66/79.

52 Fourth layer, burial 68/79.

53 Fourth layer, burial 70/79.

54 Fourth layer, burial 58/79 (N direction is wrong).

55 Fourth layer, burial 100/79.

56 Fourth layer, burial 109/79.

57 Fourth layer, burial 113/79.

58 Panorama (1984) of the fifth layer looking to the south.

59 Panorama (1984) of the fifth layer looking to the west.

60 Panorama (1984) of the fifth layer looking to the north.

61 Panorama (1984) of the fifth layer looking to the east.

62 Fifth layer, tomb 17.

63 Fifth layer, tomb 2. In the background tomb 1.

64 Fifth layer, tomb 12.

65 Fifth layer, tomb 18. The bricked-up opening of the north-eastern passage.

66 Fifth layer, tomb 1. View into the chamber-like extension with the bricked-up opening.

67 Fifth layer, tomb 17. View of the burial place.

68 Fifth layer, tomb 18. View of the burial place.

69 Fifth layer, tomb 1. The funerary stelae in situ.

70 Funerary stelae no. 162.

71 Funerary stelae no. 163.

72 Fifth layer, tomb 4. The funerary stelae in situ.

73 Funerary stelae no. 258.

74 Unnumbered funerary stela of tomb 4.

75 Fifth layer, tomb 17. The funerary stelae in situ.

76 Funerary stelae no. 397.

77 Fifth layer, tomb 1, burial A (northern burial).

78 Fifth layer, tomb 1, burial B (northern burial).

79 Fifth layer, tomb 2. In the background tomb 1.

80 Fifth layer, tomb 3, before opening.

81 Fifth layer, tomb 1, burial place.

82 Fifth layer, tomb 3, burial A (northern burial).

83 Fifth layer, tomb 3, burial B (southern burial).

84 Fifth layer, tomb 4, before opening. Photo shows the corbelled shape. In the neighbourhood tomb 3, 2, 1, 8, 9, 10, 14, and 12 (clockwise). North of tomb 12 the vault of the annexed chamber is visible.

85 Fifth layer, tomb 5, before opening.

86 Fifth layer, tomb 5, burial place.

87 Fifth layer, tomb 9, burial place.

88 Fifth layer, tomb 10, northern narrow side.

89 Fifth layer, tomb 13, burial place.

90 Fifth layer, tomb 14, northern narrow side.

91 Fifth layer, tomb 15, before opening.

92 Fifth layer, tomb 16, burial place.

93 Fifth layer, tomb 17, before opening.

94 Fifth layer, tomb 18, before opening. In front tomb 20 opened.

95 Fifth layer, tomb 18, burial place.

96 Fifth layer, tomb 18, burial A (north-western burial).

97 Fifth layer, tomb 18, burial B 1 (north-eastern burial, southern skeleton).

98 Fifth layer, tomb 18, burial B 2 (north-eastern burial, northern skeleton).

99 Fifth layer, tomb 18, burial C (south-eastern burial).

100 Fifth layer, tomb 18, burial D (south-western burial).

101 Fifth layer, tomb 19, before opening.

102 Fifth layer, tomb 19, burial place.

103 Amulet. Reg. no. 115.

104 Amulet. Reg. no. 116.

105 Amulet (?). Reg. no. 117.

106 Votive cups. Reg. no. 118.1-3.

107 Amulet (?). Reg. no. 120.

108 Amulet. Reg. no. 121.

109 Amulet. Reg. no. 122.

110 Amulet. Reg. no. 128.

111 Flask. Reg. no. 130.

112 Coffin. Reg. no. 143.

113 Pots. Reg. no. 171.1-4

114 Amulet. Reg. no. 214.

115 Seal. Reg. no. 215.

116 Bead. Reg. no. 216.

117 Pot. Reg. no. 220.

118 Beads and amulets (recently stringed). Reg. no. 222.

119 Beads and amulets (recently stringed). Reg. no. 222.

120 Knife. Reg. no. 223.

121 Beads and one amulet (recently stringed). Reg. no. 224.

122 Beads and amulets (recently stringed). Reg. no. 225.

123 Harpoon. Reg. no. 226.

124 Pot. Reg. no. 227.

125 Pot. Reg. no. 228.

126 Pot. Reg. no. 229.

127 Beads (recently stringed). Reg. no. 230.

128 Pot. Reg. no. 231.

129 Amulet (?). Reg. no. 232.

130 - 132 Scarabs. Reg. no. 234 (left, below), 235 (centre), and 236 (right).

133 Scarab. Reg. no. 234.

134 Pot. Reg. no. 249.

135 Pot. Reg. no. 257.

136 Pot. Reg. no. 260.

137 Pot. Reg. no. 261.

138 Bowl. Reg. no. 262.

139 Pot. Reg. no. 263.

140 Pot. Reg. no. 264.

141 Pot. Reg. no. 265.

142 Pot. Reg. no. 266.

143 False door. Reg. no. 270.

144 Pot. Reg. no. 271.

145 Pot. Reg. no. 272.

146 Scaraboid. Reg. no. 273

147 Beads (recently stringed). Reg. no. 274.

148 Plate. Reg. no. 275.

149 Pot. Reg. no. 281.

150 Pot. Reg. no. 282.

151 Pot. Reg. no. 283.

152 Beads (recently stringed). Reg. no. 284.

153 Pot. Reg. no. 285.

154 Pot. Reg. no. 288.

155 Pot. Reg. no. 290.

156 Pot. Reg. no. 291.

157 Pot. Reg. no. 298.

158 Amulet. Reg. no. 316.

159 Pot. Reg. no. 327.

160 Pot. Reg. no. 328.

161 Bowl. Reg. no.329.

162 Pot. Reg. no. 330.

163 Pot. Reg. no. 331.

164 Pot. Reg. no. 332.

165 Pot. Reg. no. 333.

166 Pot. Reg. no. 334.

167 Offering table. Reg. no. 336.

168 Amulet. Reg. no. 339.

169 Pot. Reg. no. 356.

170 Beads (recently stringed). Reg. no. 358.

171 Mirror. Reg. no. 393.

172 Mirror. Reg. no. 536.

173 Alabaster vases. Reg. no. 654.1-2.

174 Vase. Reg. no. 1435.

175 Bowl. Reg. no. 1436.

176 Shabtis. Reg. no. 32, 33, 49, 503, 504 (from the left).

177 Shabti. Reg. no. 36.

178 Shabti. Reg. no. 48.

179 Shabti. Reg. no. 59.

180 Shabtis. Reg. no. 65.

181 Shabtis. Reg. no. 69.

182 - 184 Shabtis. Reg. no. 72.

185 Shabtis. Reg. no. 81.

186 Shabtis. Reg. no. 84.

187 Shabtis. Reg. no. 86.

188 - 189 Shabtis. Reg. no. 102.

190 Shabtis. Reg. no. 233.

191 Shabtis. Reg. no. 237.

192 Shabtis. Reg. no. 303.

193 Shabtis. Reg. no. 387.

194 Shabtis. Reg. no. 405, 410, 415 (from the left).

195 - 196 Shabtis. Reg. no. 409.

197 Shabtis. Reg. no. 410.

198 Shabtis. Reg. no. 412.

199 Shabtis. Reg. no. 415.

200 Shabtis. Reg. no. 420.

201 Shabtis. Reg. no. 429.

202 Shabtis. Reg. no. 422.

203 Shabti. Reg. no. 426.

204 Shabtis. Reg. no. 427.

205 Shabti. Reg. no. 505.

206 - 207 Shabtis. Reg. no. 547.

208 Shabtis. Reg. no. 548.

209 Shabtis. Reg. no. 549.

210 Shabti. Reg. no. 559.

Captions to the plans

1 Tell Basta, plan of principal monuments (1971).

2 Tell Basta, plan of principal monuments (1990).

3 Key plan of the first layer.

4 Key plan of the third layer.

5 Key plan of the fourth layer.

6 Key plan of the fifth layer.

Captions to the drawings

1 South profile.

2 West profile.

3 North profile of the west-east cut.

4 Types of vault constructions.

5 Fifth layer, tomb 15. Profile of the north-eastern burial place.

6 Fifth layer, tomb 6. Profile of the burial place.

7 Fifth layer, tomb 18. The brick conctruction.

8 Fifth layer, tomb 17. The brick construction.

9 Fifth layer, tomb 1. The brick conctruction.

10 Fifth layer, tomb 4. The brick conctruction.

11 Fifth layer, tomb 3. The brick conctruction.

12 Fifth layer, tomb 10. The brick conctruction.

13 Fifth layer, tomb 2. The brick conctruction.

14 Fifth layer, tomb 6. The brick conctruction.

15 Funerary stela no. 162.

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دولى ٩٧٧ — ٢٣٥ — ٠٤١ — ٦
مطبعة هيئة الآثار المصرية